

**Black Beauty Coal  
Vermilion Grove Mine  
Surface Water Quality Analysis**

**Prepared by  
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The purpose of this report is to summarize surface water quality sampling results from Black Beauty Coal Company's Vermilion Grove Mine. Vermilion Grove Mine is an underground coal mine in east-central Illinois located upstream of the Little Vermilion River. The permitted area includes 411.5 acres that includes: a preparation plant, soil and coal stockpiles, rail road loop and rail load-out facility, ventilation shafts, office, shop, bath house, roads, refuse disposal area, diversions, and three sedimentation ponds in series. Runoff from the mine site is directed to sediment basin 003 (13SW-12), which discharges to an Unnamed Tributary of the Little Vermilion River.

As required by the NPDES permit dated January 10, 2001, the mine conducted sampling at the sedimentation pond Outfall 003 (13SW-12), at a sample location upstream (13SW-13) of the confluence of the unnamed tributary and Outfall 003, from upstream (11SW-14) and downstream (11SW-15) locations from the confluence of the unnamed tributary and the Little Vermilion River, and on the Little Vermilion River (Georgetown Lake) immediately above the Georgetown dam (6SW-16). Surface water sampling sites are summarized in Table 1 and shown on Figure 1. Samples were collected by grab sample methods during discharge events starting in 2001 and ending in 2007 for the five sample locations. Sample locations 13SW-12 and 13SW-13 include sample data into 2010. Up to a maximum of 10 discharge events per year were required to be sampled.

Permit requirements allow offsite discharge only when the flow rate in the receiving stream is three times that of the sediment basin outfall. Discharges from sedimentation pond Outfall 3 are controlled by a valve-structure. Samples from the surface water sites and the sedimentation basin discharge were analyzed for Temperature, DO, SpC, Volatile Suspended Solids, TSS, Total Ammonia, Alkalinity, Acidity, Hardness, pH, TDS, Cl, SO<sub>4</sub>, Hg<sub>T</sub>, Ba<sub>T</sub>, Ba<sub>D</sub>, B<sub>T</sub>, B<sub>D</sub>, Cd<sub>T</sub>, Cd<sub>D</sub>, Cr(III)<sub>T</sub>, Cr(III)<sub>D</sub>, Cu<sub>T</sub>, Cu<sub>D</sub>, Fe<sub>T</sub>, Fe<sub>D</sub>, Pb<sub>T</sub>, Pb<sub>D</sub>, Mn<sub>T</sub>, Mn<sub>D</sub>, Ni<sub>T</sub>, Ni<sub>D</sub>, Ag<sub>T</sub>, Ag<sub>D</sub>, Zn<sub>T</sub>, and Zn<sub>D</sub>. The data was analyzed using a variety of statistics including a comparison of the mean, maximum, and minimum chemical concentrations, Time series plots of individual parameters, and using an ANOVA statistic to compare population means of individual parameters between the sample points.

Tables 2 and 3 compare mean, maximum, and minimum chemical concentrations, respectively, of the mine outfall (13SW-12) to upstream sites (13SW-13 and 11SW-14). It can be seen that there are very few differences in chemical composition of mine affected water and upstream waters. Concentrations of inorganic chemicals, specifically sulfate, chloride, and TDS are higher at the mine outfall than in receiving streams. The higher concentrations of these parameters are likely due to the weathering of coal and refuse material contained within the mine site. Results for heavy metals indicate there is little or no difference between mine affected water and upstream waters.

Time series graphs of heavy metal concentrations at surface water sites are shown in Appendix B. Again, the graphs show concentrations at the mine outfall appear to be consistent with the up stream surface water stream sampling locations.

In order to determine if there are any statistically significance differences in mean concentrations of the heavy metals between the sample locations, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted using data from the mine outfall and the two upstream sites. According to EPA's Statistical Analysis of Ground-Water Monitoring Data at RCRA Facilities Unified Guidance March 2009, the analysis of variance is an acceptable method to use to compare mean concentrations. This procedure compares the means of different sampling locations and determines whether there are any significant differences among the sampling locations. Results of the ANOVA can be seen in Table 4. Based on this analysis, none of the heavy metals showed a statistically significant difference between the outfall mean concentration and the upstream mean concentration except for boron (dissolved and total), iron (total), and manganese (total). The ANOVA comparisons do not identify whether the outfall concentrations are statistically greater than the upstream locations only that there a statistically significant differences in mean concentrations.

Time series graphs of all chemicals that showed a statistically significant difference are shown in Appendix A. Time series graphs of all other heavy metals are shown in Appendix B.

As shown in Table 3, total boron concentrations are within the range of background and dissolved boron concentrations are comparable to background. Therefore, although the *mean* boron concentration shows a statistically significant difference, outfall concentrations are still comparable to the *range* of concentrations at upstream sampling sites. Furthermore, since mining has stopped and reclamation completed, boron concentrations have decreased to pre-mining levels. Total iron shows a similar relationship. The iron ranges seen during mining are within the range of background and again, since mining has stopped and reclamation completed, iron concentrations have decreased to pre-mining levels. Total manganese does show concentrations above those found in background and recent samples show that levels have not yet decreased to pre-mining concentrations. However, it is expected that manganese, similar to iron and boron, will return to pre-mining levels in time.

Under alkaline or neutral conditions, heavy metals do not readily leach out of coal or refuse materials and are not expected to be a significant component of mine runoff. For this reason, many materials handling processes are aimed specifically at minimizing any potential for acidic conditions to develop. These include minimizing stockpile area, minimizing exposure of disturbed areas and refuse, special handling requirements for coarse and fine refuse, and compaction and covering of material within the refuse pile. Furthermore, all upstream unaffected water is diverted around the mine site to prevent exposure to disturbed material and avoid unnecessary treatment of unaffected water.

In summary, Vermilion Grove Mine conducted surface water sampling both upstream and downstream of a sediment basin outfall that received all runoff from the mine site. After five years of sampling, this analysis has shown that, for the majority of analytes, concentrations at the mine outfall are not statistically different from background concentrations. Rather than requiring analysis of such an extensive list of analytes, the same level of protection could have been achieved through the use of indicator parameters.

## TABLES

**Table 1**  
**Surface Water Monitoring Locations and Descriptions.**

<b>Vermilion Grove Site No.</b>	<b>Sample Point ID</b>	<b>Vermilion Grove Site Description</b>	<b>Sampling Date Range</b>	<b>No. of Sample Events</b>
Site 1	13SW-12	Basin 003 Outfall	02/12/2001 - 07/26/2010	169
Site 2	13SW-13	Unnamed Tributary of LVR, upstream from 003 discharge	02/12/2001 - 07/26/2010	126
Site 3	11SW-14	Little Vermilion River, upstream from unnamed tributary	02/12/2001 - 04/04/2007	45
Site 4	11SW-15	Little Vermilion River, downstream from unnamed tributary	02/12/2001 - 04/04/2007	45
Site 5	6SW-16	Little Vermilion River, Georgetown Reservoir dam	02/12/2001 - 04/04/2007	45

Note: Table 1 includes sampling date range and total number of samples taken during the review period.

**Table 2**  
**Mean Chemical Concentrations**  
**Vermilion Grove Sample Locations Analysis**

Parameter	Units	13SW-12	13SW-13	11SW-14
		Average	Average	Average
Temp	[C°]	13.88	11.37	10.41
Hardness	[mg/L]	320	242	248
TDS	[mg/L]	949	404	368
pH Field	[S.U.]	8.05	7.93	7.90
pH Lab	[S.U.]	7.94	7.78	--
Acidity	[mg/L]	6	12	13
Alkalinity	[mg/L]	135	177	205
Cl	[mg/L]	244	78	51
SO4	[mg/L]	302	42	34
TSS	[mg/L]	25.40	34.23	70.23
SS	[mL/L]	0.17	--	--
DO	[mg/L]	9.46	9.35	8.97
Flow	[cfs]	10.63	47.07	147.78
Ba <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.084	0.110	0.102
Ba <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.055	0.057	0.062
B <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.142	0.077	0.067
B <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.144	0.085	0.070
Cd <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002
Cd <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002
Cr <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002
Cr <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.003	0.004	0.004
Cu <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.005	0.003	0.004
Cu <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.003	0.004	0.005
Fe <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.093	0.162	0.177
Fe <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.946	1.981	2.335
Pb <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002
Pb <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002
Mn <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.086	0.044	0.022
Mn <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.211	0.065	0.060
Ni <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.005	0.003	0.002
Ni <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.005	0.004	0.003
Ag <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002
Ag <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002
Zn <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.027	0.033	0.030
Zn <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.014	0.021	0.021
Hg <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Hg <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Cr(VI)	[mg/L]	0.018	0.018	0.018
Cr(III)	[mg/L]	0.010	0.012	0.012
Cr(IIID)	[mg/L]	0.004	0.003	0.003
NH <sub>4T</sub>	[mg/L]	1.05	1.00	1.01

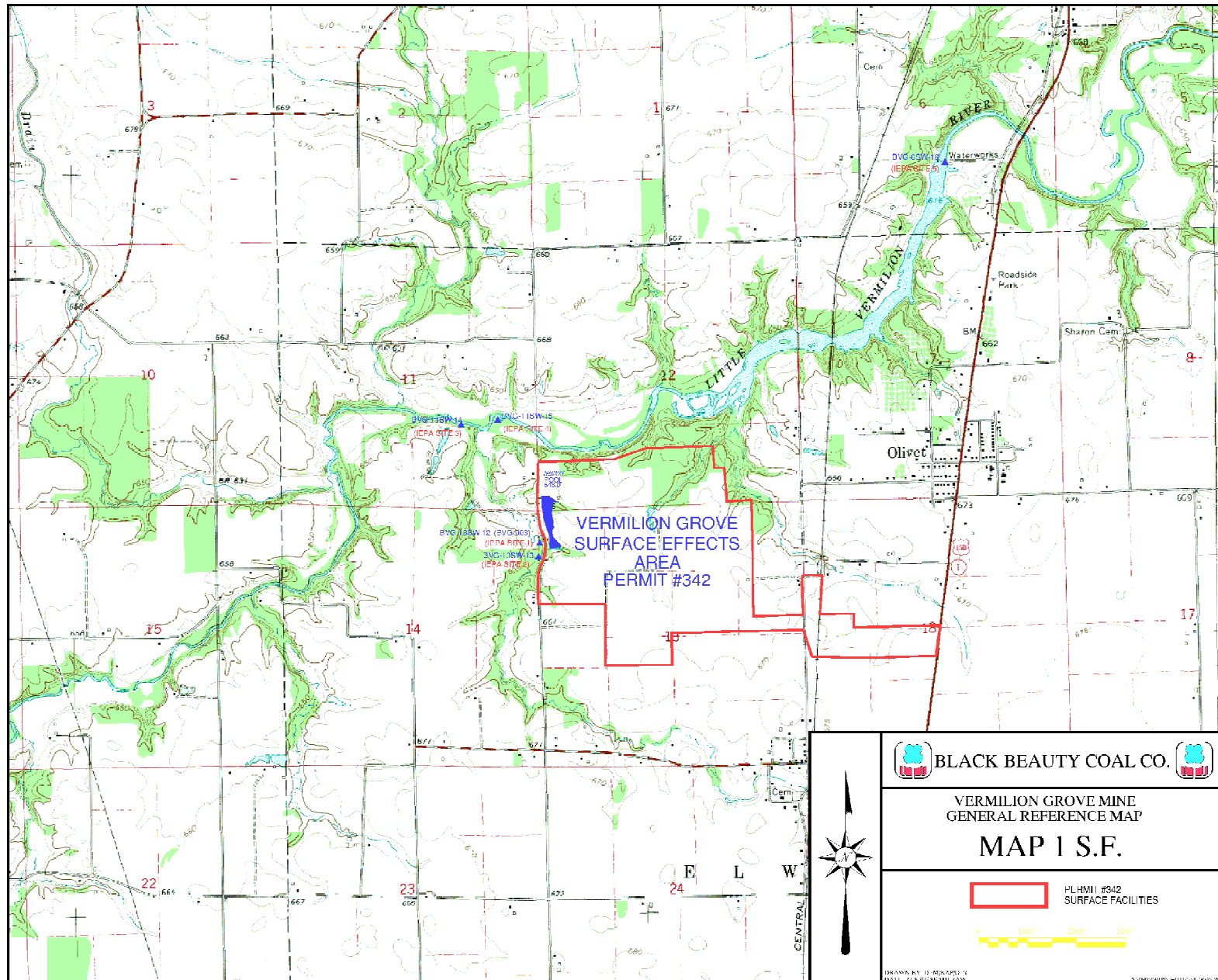
**Table 3**  
**Maximum and Minimum Chemical Concentrations**  
**Vermilion Grove Sample Locations**

Parameter	Units	13SW-12		13SW-13		11SW-14	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Temp	[C°]	1.89	28.20	2.60	24.30	2.78	24.40
Hardness	[mg/L]	50	780	140	340	110	370
TDS	[mg/L]	166	4608	192	1277	134	870
pH Field	[S.U.]	6.42	8.82	6.44	8.60	6.37	9.30
pH Lab	[S.U.]	6.88	9.28	7.16	8.20	--	--
Acidity	[mg/L]	-74	123	1	164	1	122
Alkalinity	[mg/L]	52	330	74	288	85	408
Cl	[mg/L]	10	767	10	742	3	394
SO <sub>4</sub>	[mg/L]	10	935	10	308	1	148
TSS	[mg/L]	1.00	198	1.00	190	2.00	327
SS	[mL/L]	0.04	0.40	--	--	--	--
DO	[mg/L]	5.84	17.44	5.32	16.60	5.02	11.88
Flow	[cfs]	0.00	143.91	0.88	540.27	125.00	155.00
Ba <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.031	0.320	0.027	0.544	0.030	0.864
Ba <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.031	0.082	0.033	0.136	0.040	0.137
B <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.041	0.294	0.020	0.281	0.015	0.218
B <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.022	0.501	0.002	0.652	0.014	0.443
Cd <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Cd <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Cr <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.004	0.002	0.008	0.002	0.004
Cr <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.038	0.002	0.026	0.002	0.026
Cu <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.087	0.002	0.038	0.002	0.030
Cu <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.010	0.002	0.027	0.002	0.022
Fe <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.005	0.889	0.005	1.160	0.005	1.640
Fe <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.005	11.90	0.005	14.50	0.005	15.70
Pb <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.005	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.005
Pb <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.006	0.002	0.006	0.002	0.006
Mn <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	1.22	0.002	0.848	0.004	0.190
Mn <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.003	1.17	0.003	0.738	0.002	0.246
Ni <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.050	0.002	0.033	0.002	0.004
Ni <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.074	0.002	0.055	0.002	0.025
Ag <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.006
Ag <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.005	0.002	0.008	0.002	0.007
Zn <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.134	0.002	0.152	0.002	0.157
Zn <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.002	0.154	0.002	0.123	0.002	0.142
Hg <sub>D</sub>	[mg/L]	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Hg <sub>T</sub>	[mg/L]	0.0002	0.0007	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Cr(VI)	[mg/L]	0.010	0.020	0.010	0.020	0.010	0.020
Cr(III)	[mg/L]	0.002	0.038	0.002	0.026	0.002	0.026
Cr(IIID)	[mg/L]	0.002	0.020	0.002	0.020	0.002	0.020
NH <sub>4T</sub>	[mg/L]	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.10	1.00	1.30

**Table 4**  
**Values Computed in ANOVA Statistical Analysis.**

Parameter	Sum of Squares (Wells)	Sum of Squares (Total)	Sum of Squares (Error)	Mean Squares (Wells)	Mean Squares (Error)	Degrees of Freedom (p-1)	Degrees of Freedom (N-p)	F Value (Calculated)	F Value (Table)	Equal Means (All Wells)
Hardness	188106	1196439	1008333	94053	7756	2	130	12.13	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
TDS	9390606	39623611	30233005	4695303	236195	2	128	19.88	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
pH Field	0.97	39.59	38.62	0.49	0.20	2	196	2.47	3.07	No Significant Difference
Acidity	2210	136509	134298	1105	678	2	198	1.63	3.07	No Significant Difference
Alkalinity	168965	685086	516121	84483	2607	2	198	32.41	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
Cl	1640219	6757352	5117134	820109	25208	2	203	32.53	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
SO <sub>4</sub>	3553664	9231666	5678002	1776832	27970	2	203	63.53	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
TSS	62272	589382	527111	31136	2649	2	199	11.75	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
DO	5.91	398.48	392.57	2.95	2.93	2	134	1.01	3.07	No Significant Difference
Ba <sub>D</sub>	0.02	1.83	1.82	0.01	0.01	2	128	0.54	3.07	No Significant Difference
Ba <sub>T</sub>	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	2	128	1.38	3.07	No Significant Difference
B <sub>D</sub>	0.15	0.58	0.43	0.07	0.00	2	128	22.01	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
B <sub>T</sub>	0.14	1.13	0.99	0.07	0.01	2	128	8.76	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
Cd <sub>D</sub>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	0.00	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cd <sub>T</sub>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	0.00	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cr <sub>D</sub>	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	0.0000	0.0000	2	127	0.32	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cr <sub>T</sub>	0.0000	0.0030	0.0030	0.0000	0.0000	2	127	0.20	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cu <sub>D</sub>	0.0000	0.0102	0.0102	0.0000	0.0001	2	128	0.19	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cu <sub>T</sub>	0.0001	0.0024	0.0023	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	2.34	3.07	No Significant Difference
Fe <sub>D</sub>	0.18	8.79	8.61	0.09	0.07	2	128	1.35	3.07	No Significant Difference
Fe <sub>T</sub>	74.49	1418.59	1344.09	37.25	6.79	2	198	5.49	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
Pb <sub>D</sub>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	0.39	3.07	No Significant Difference
Pb <sub>T</sub>	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	0.30	3.07	No Significant Difference
Mn <sub>D</sub>	0.10	3.56	3.46	0.05	0.03	2	128	1.76	3.07	No Significant Difference
Mn <sub>T</sub>	1.08	9.36	8.29	0.54	0.04	2	195	12.64	3.07	Significant Difference (95%)
Ni <sub>D</sub>	0.0001	0.0048	0.0047	0.0001	0.0000	2	128	1.86	3.07	No Significant Difference
Ni <sub>T</sub>	0.0001	0.0099	0.0098	0.0000	0.0001	2	128	0.55	3.07	No Significant Difference
Ag <sub>D</sub>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	1.02	3.07	No Significant Difference
Ag <sub>T</sub>	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	0.43	3.07	No Significant Difference
Zn <sub>D</sub>	0.0009	0.1484	0.1475	0.0005	0.0012	2	128	0.39	3.07	No Significant Difference
Zn <sub>T</sub>	0.0014	0.0896	0.0882	0.0007	0.0007	2	128	1.00	3.07	No Significant Difference
Hg <sub>D</sub>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2	127	0.00	3.07	No Significant Difference
Hg <sub>T</sub>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2	128	1.33	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cr(VI)	0.0000	0.0021	0.0021	0.0000	0.0000	2	127	0.00	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cr(III)	0.0001	0.0096	0.0095	0.0000	0.0001	2	127	0.55	3.07	No Significant Difference
Cr(IIID)	0.0000	0.0022	0.0022	0.0000	0.0000	2	127	0.19	3.07	No Significant Difference
NH <sub>4T</sub>	0.0513	2.0680	2.0167	0.0256	0.0159	2	127	1.61	3.07	No Significant Difference

**Figure 1**  
**Vermilion Grove Mine Surface Water Sampling Locations.**

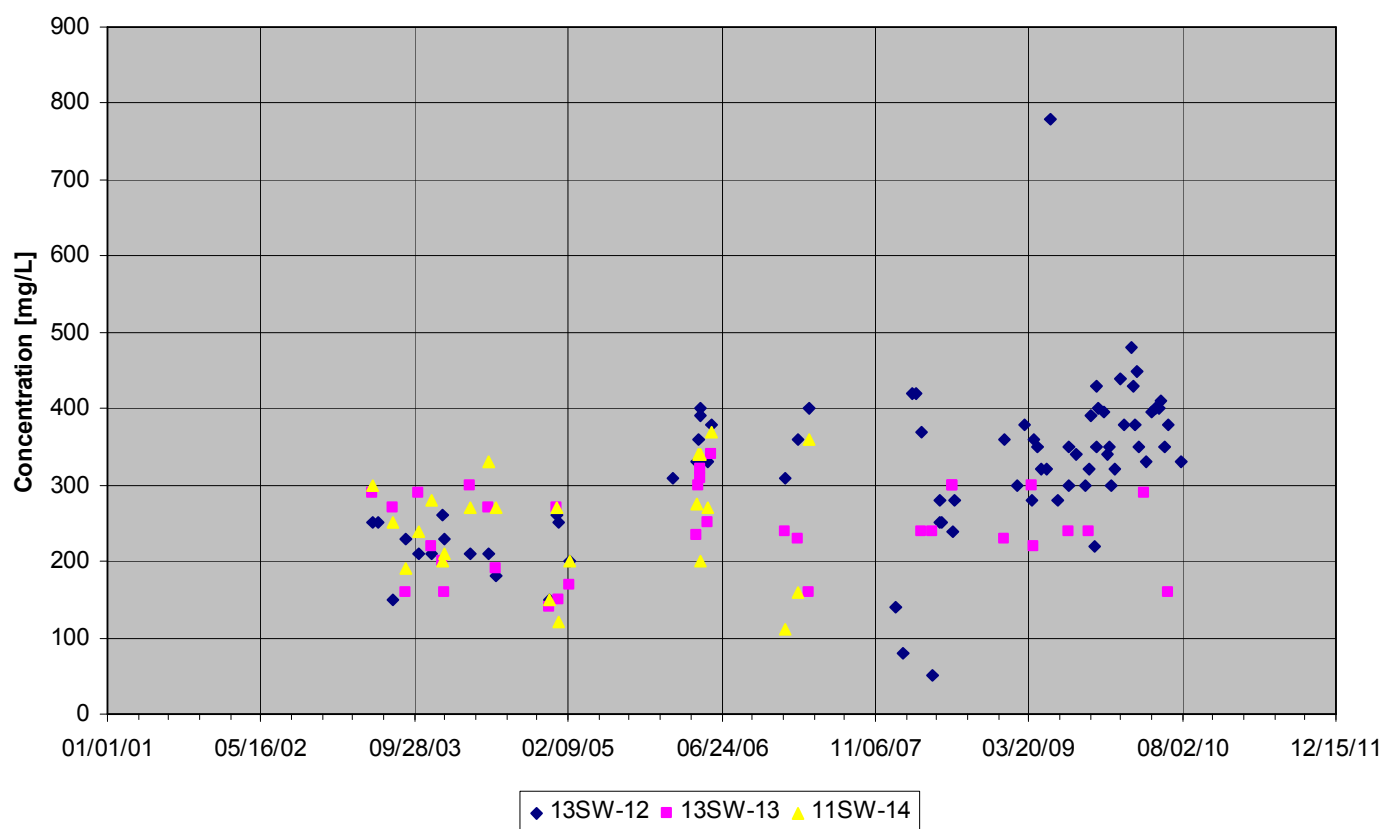




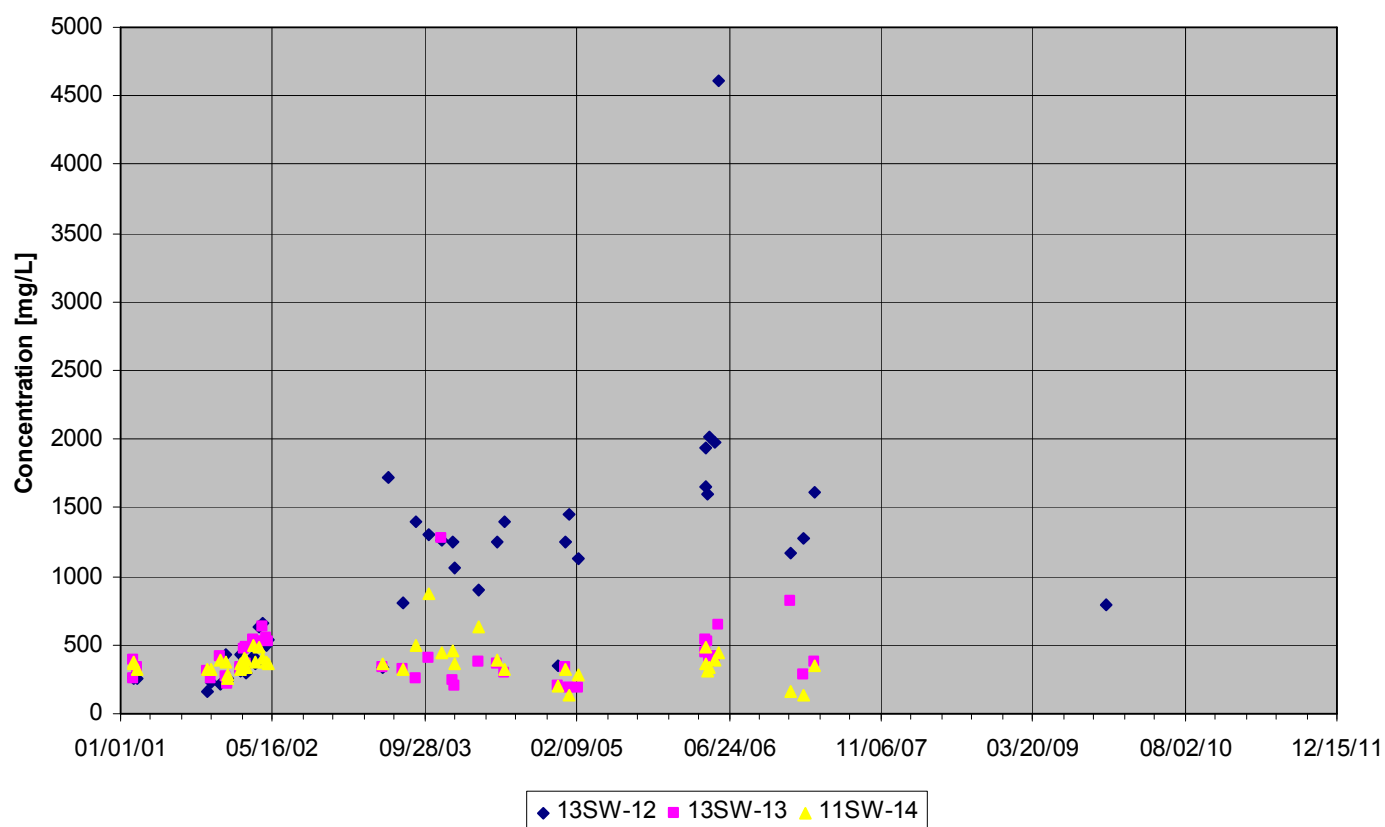
## **Appendix A**

### **Time Series Graphs for Chemicals Showing A Statistically Significance Difference**

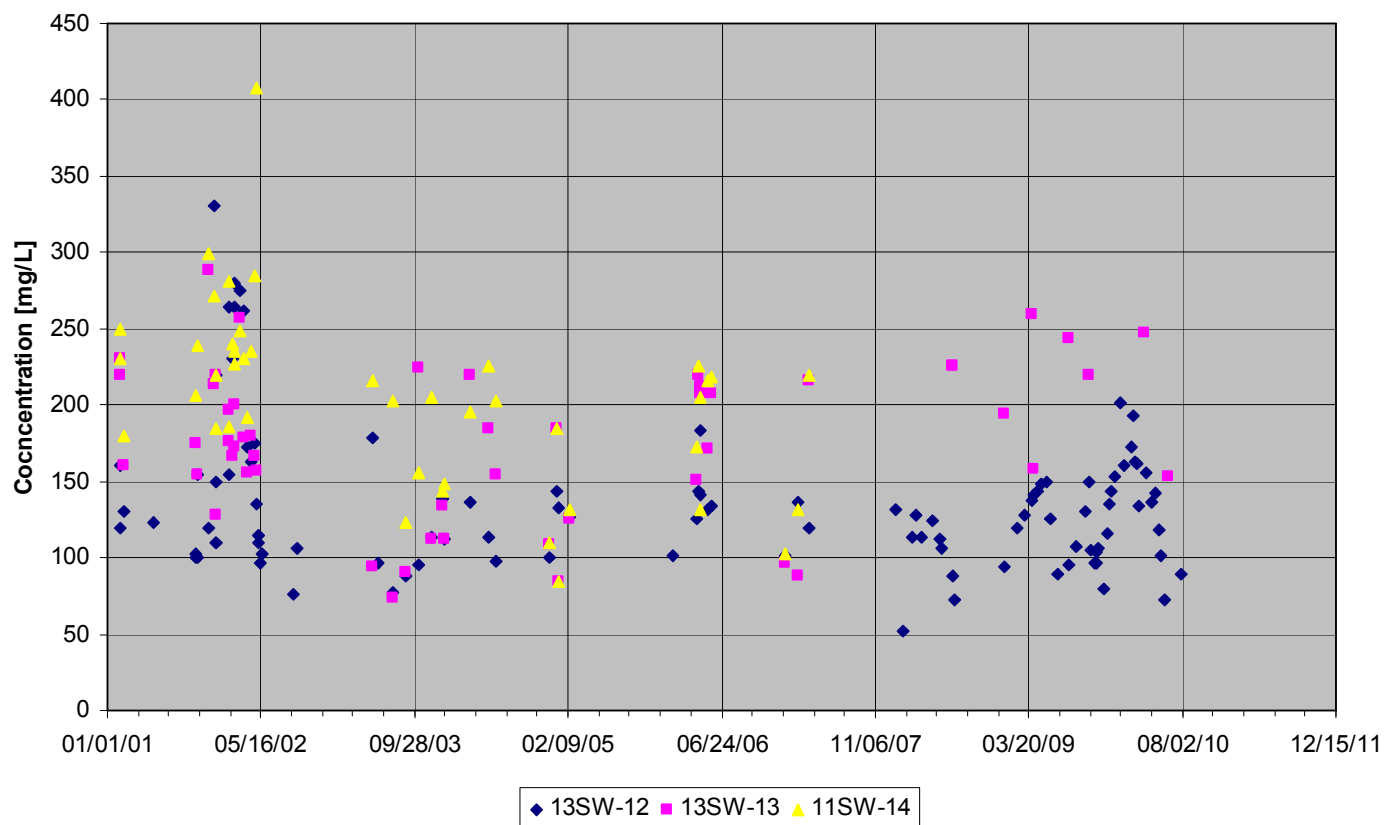
**Time Series - Hardness**



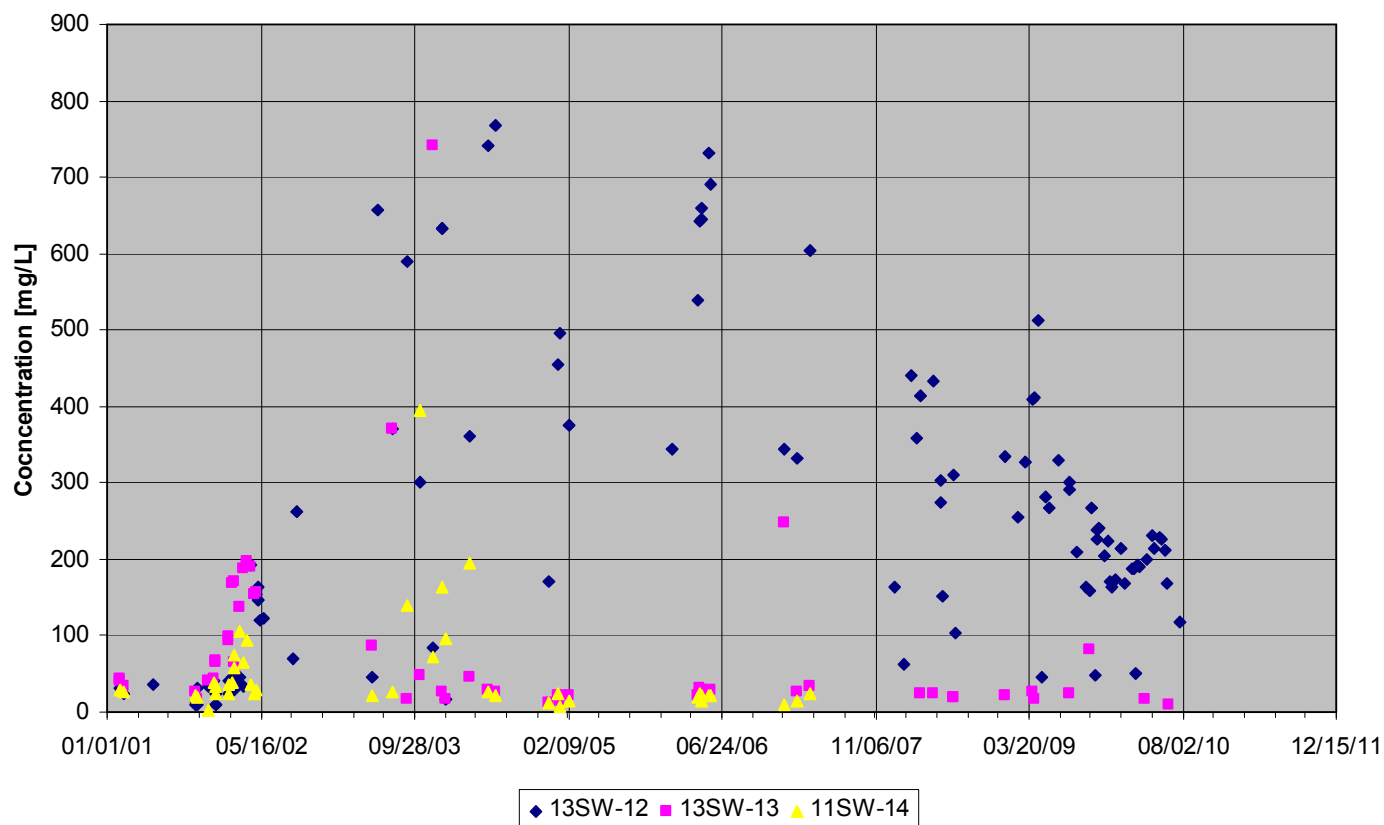
**Time Series - Total Dissolved Solids**



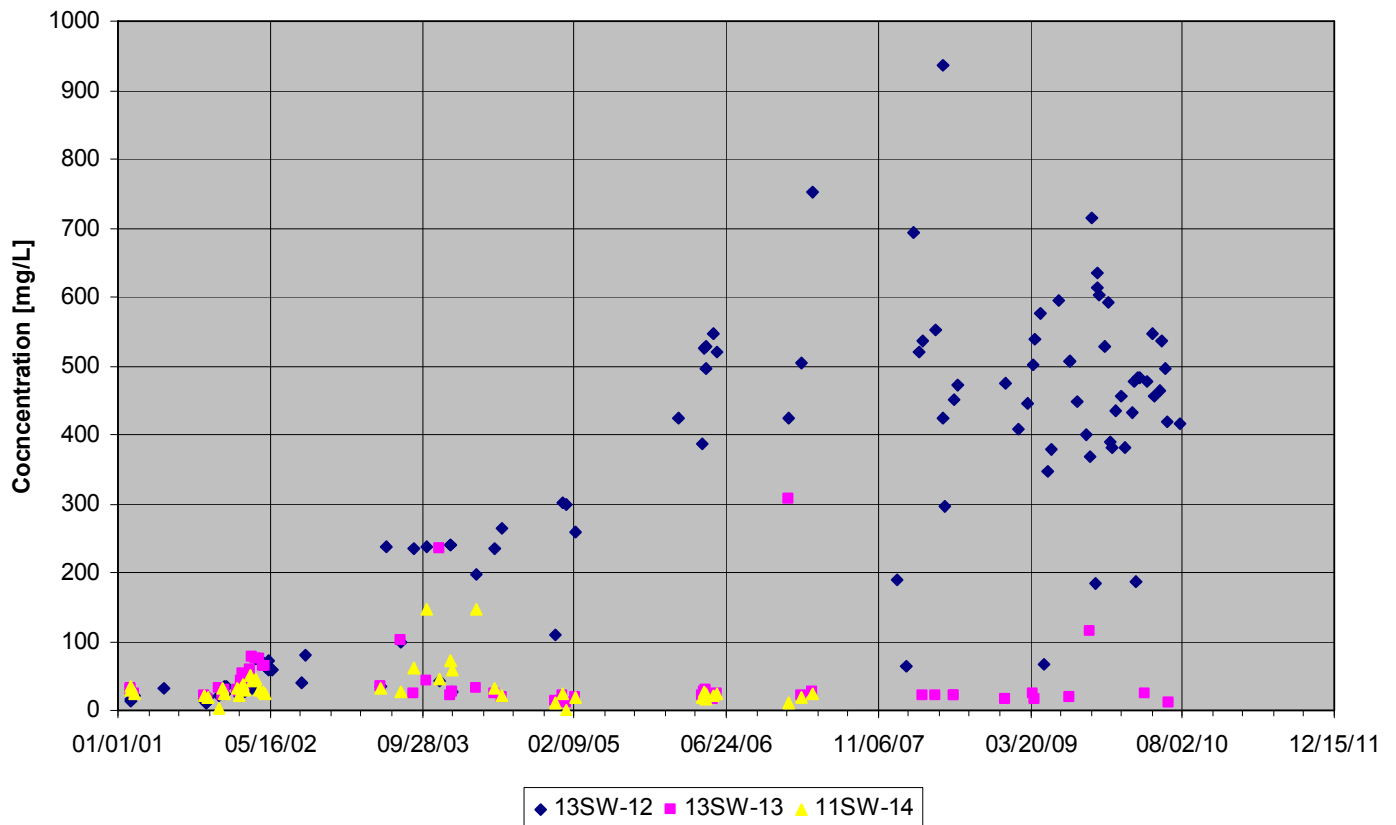
**Time Series - Alkalinity**



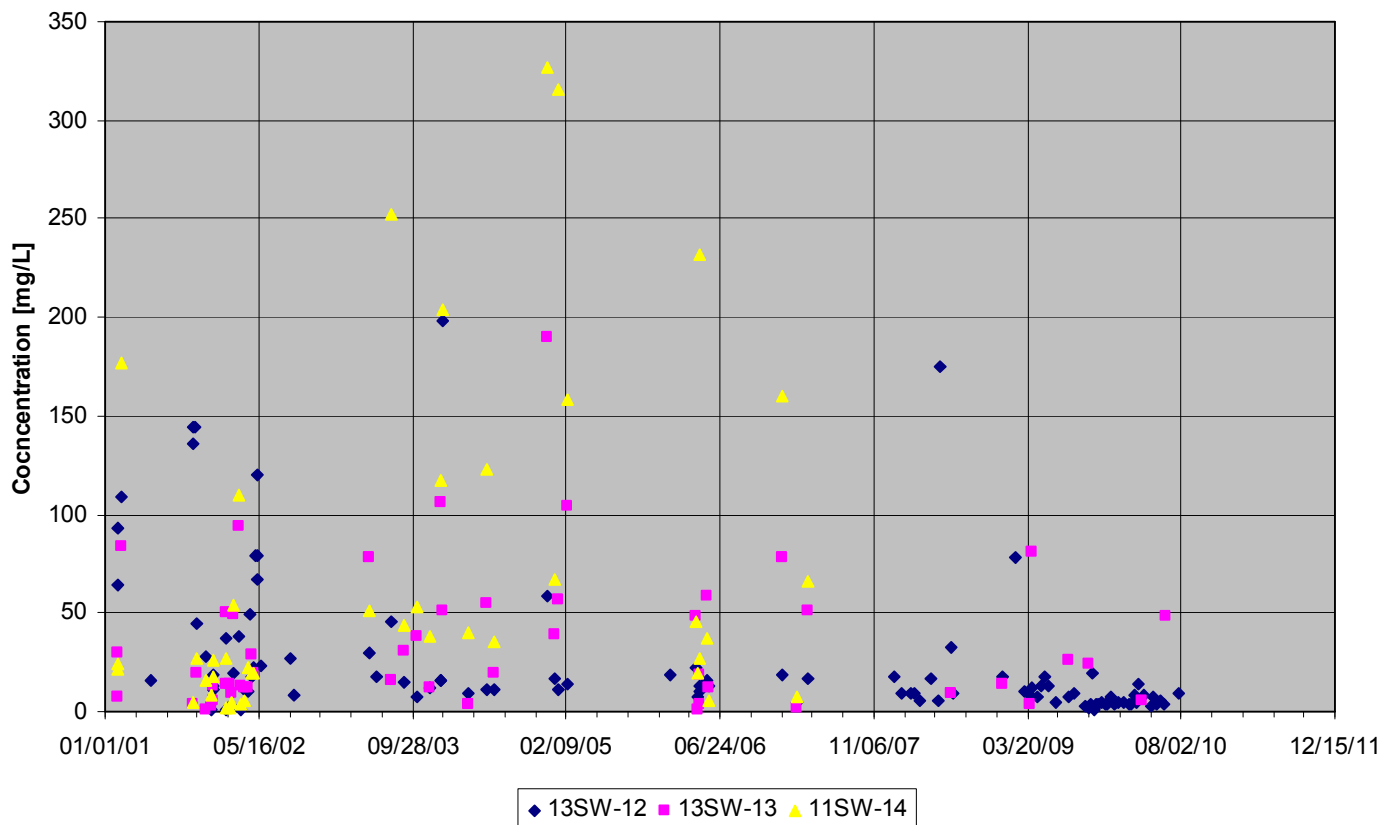
**Time Series - Chloride**



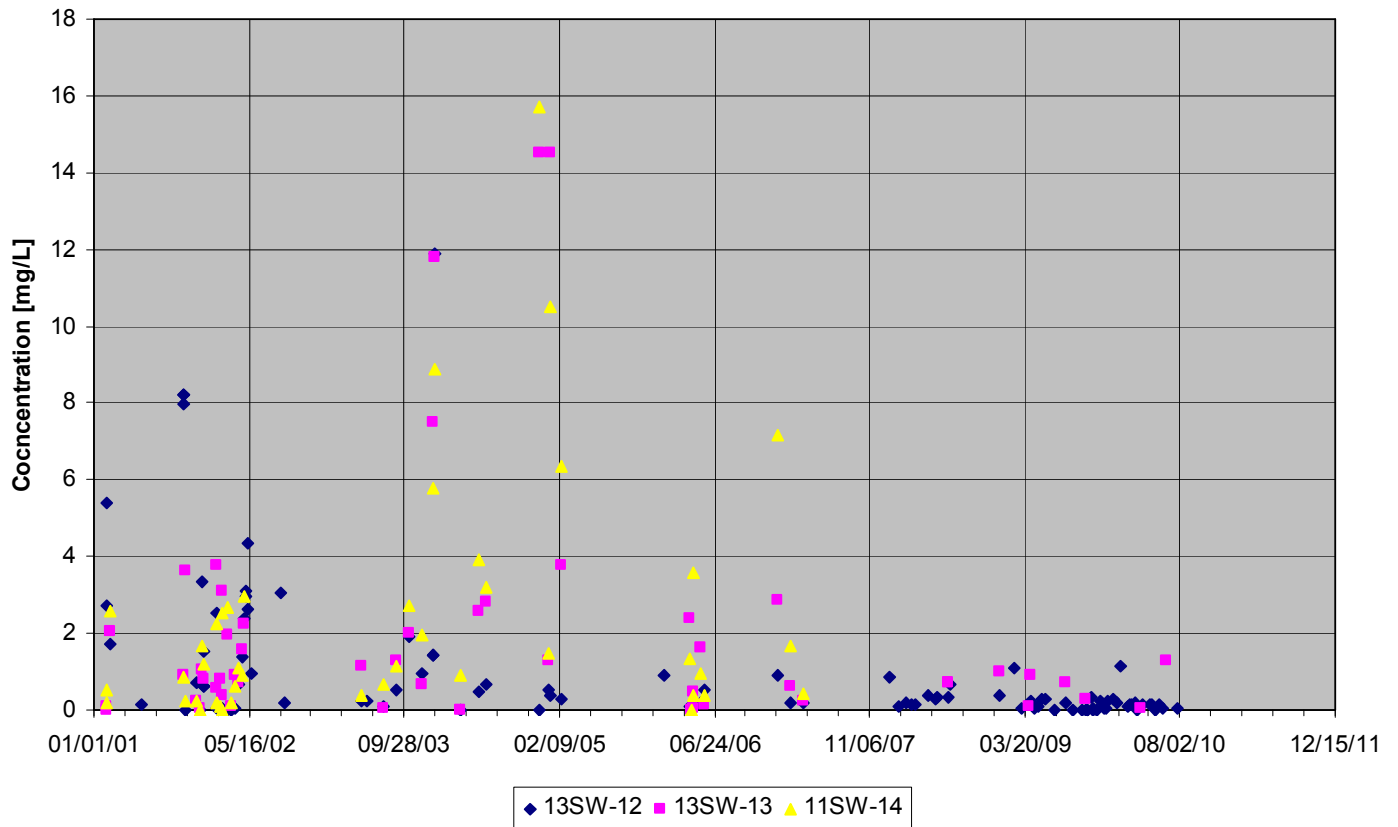
**Time Series - Sulfate**



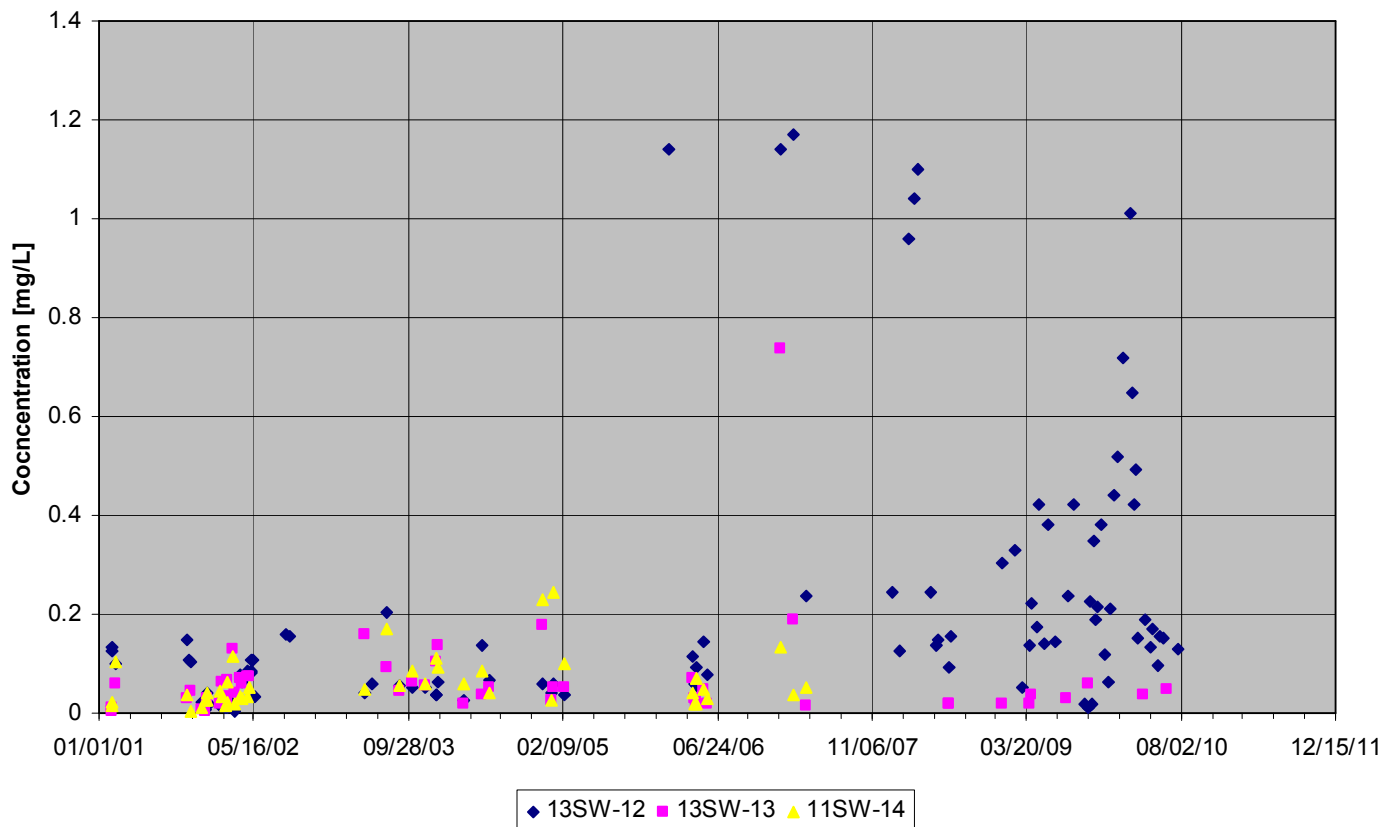
**Time Series - TSS**



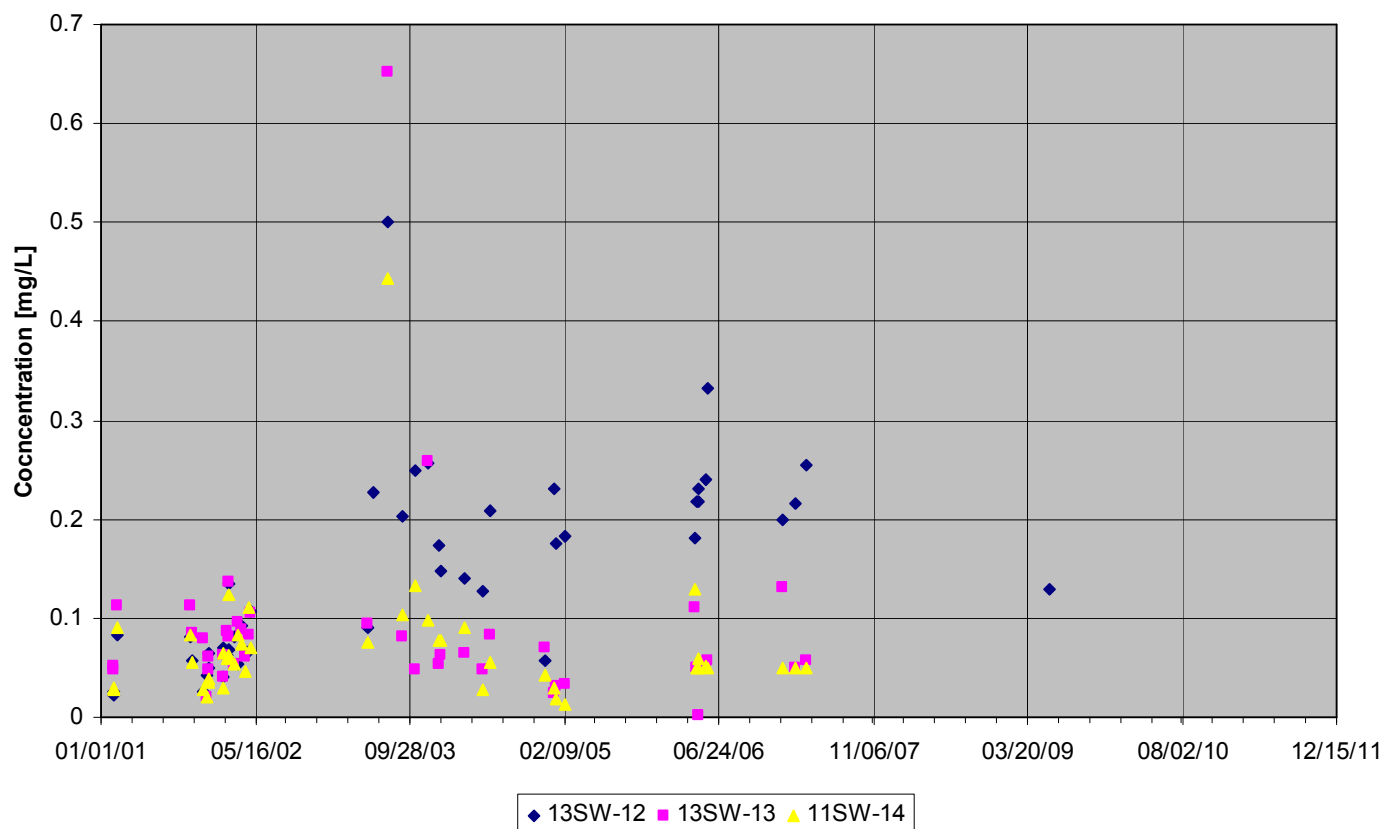
Time Series - Iron (total)



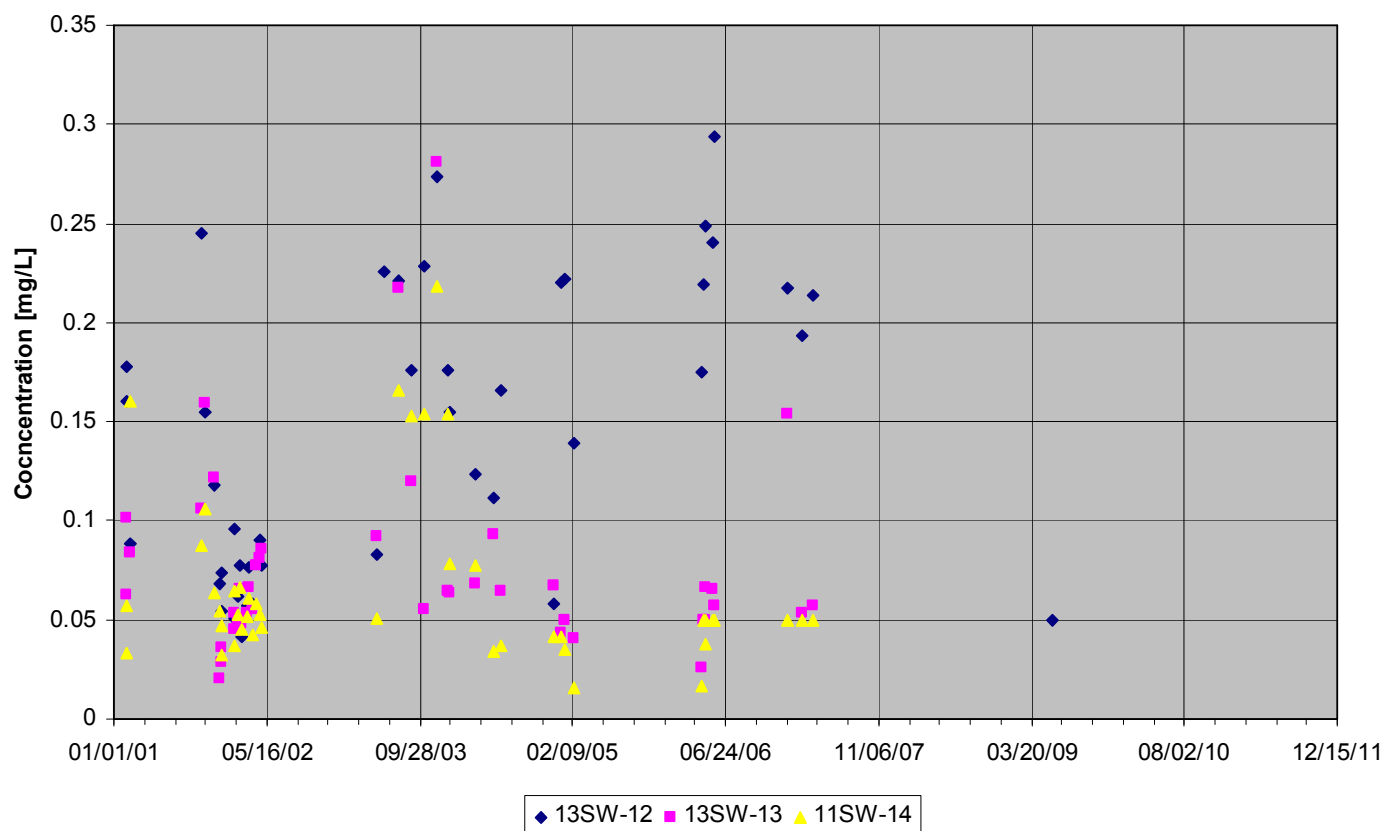
Time Series - Manganese (total)



Time Series - Boron (total)



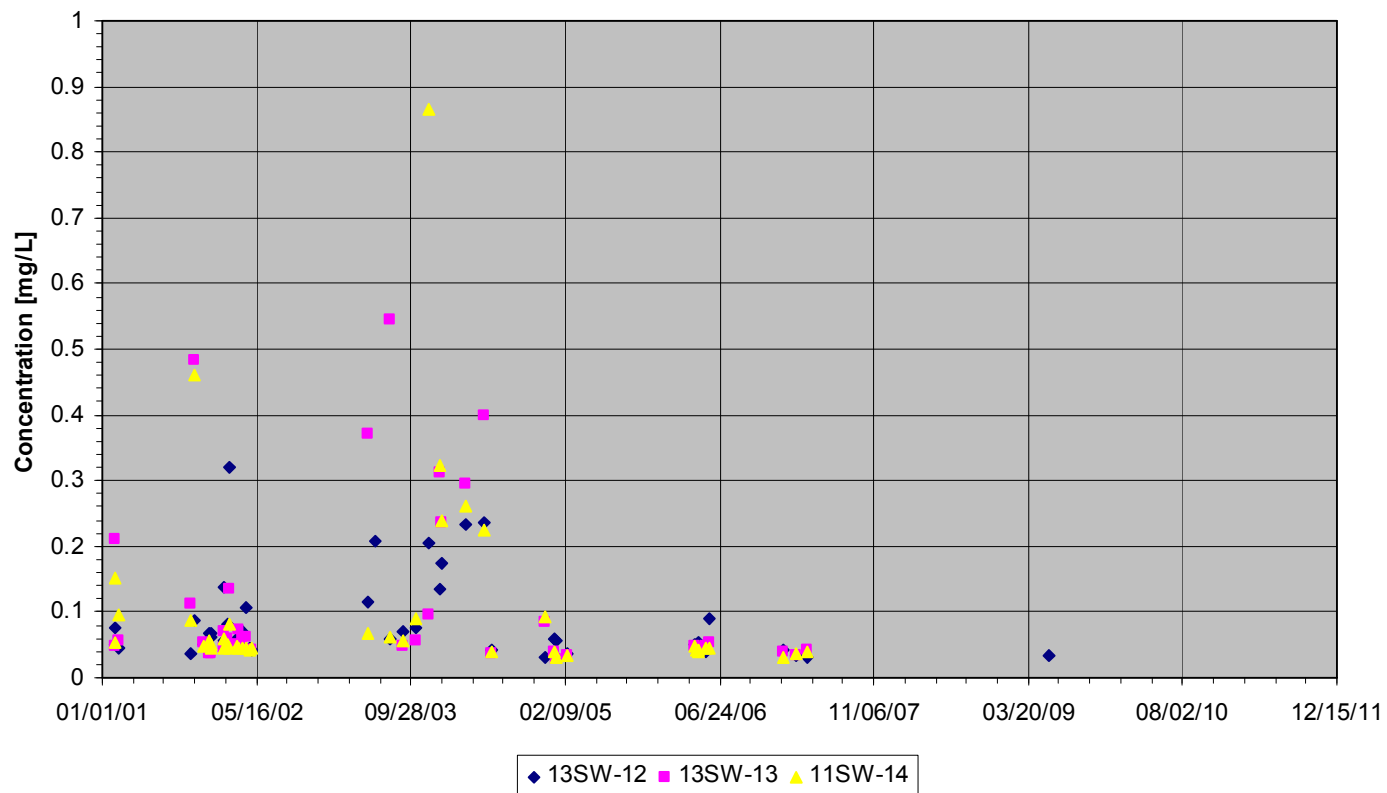
Time Series - Boron (dissolved)



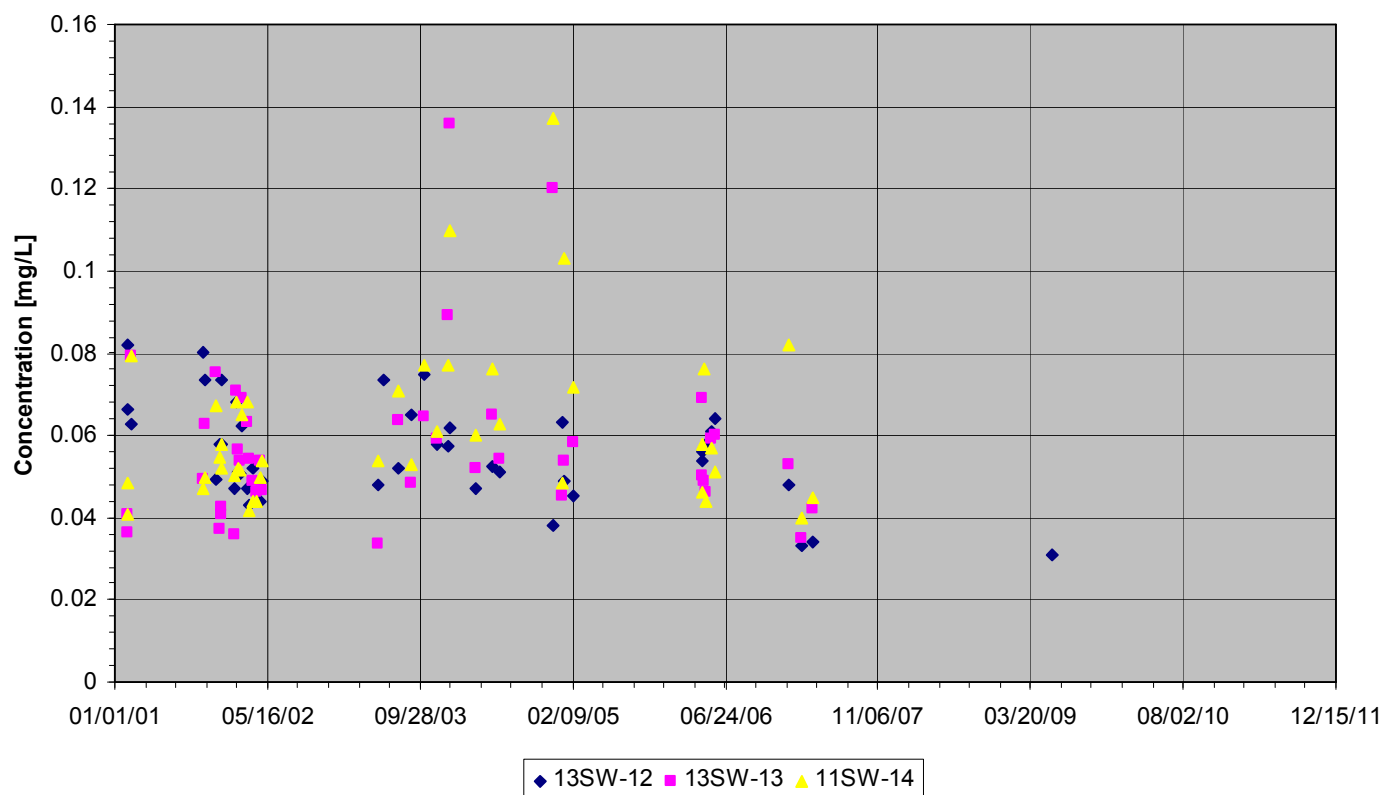
## **Appendix B**

### **Time Series Graphs Heavy Metals**

**Time Series - Barium (dissolved)**

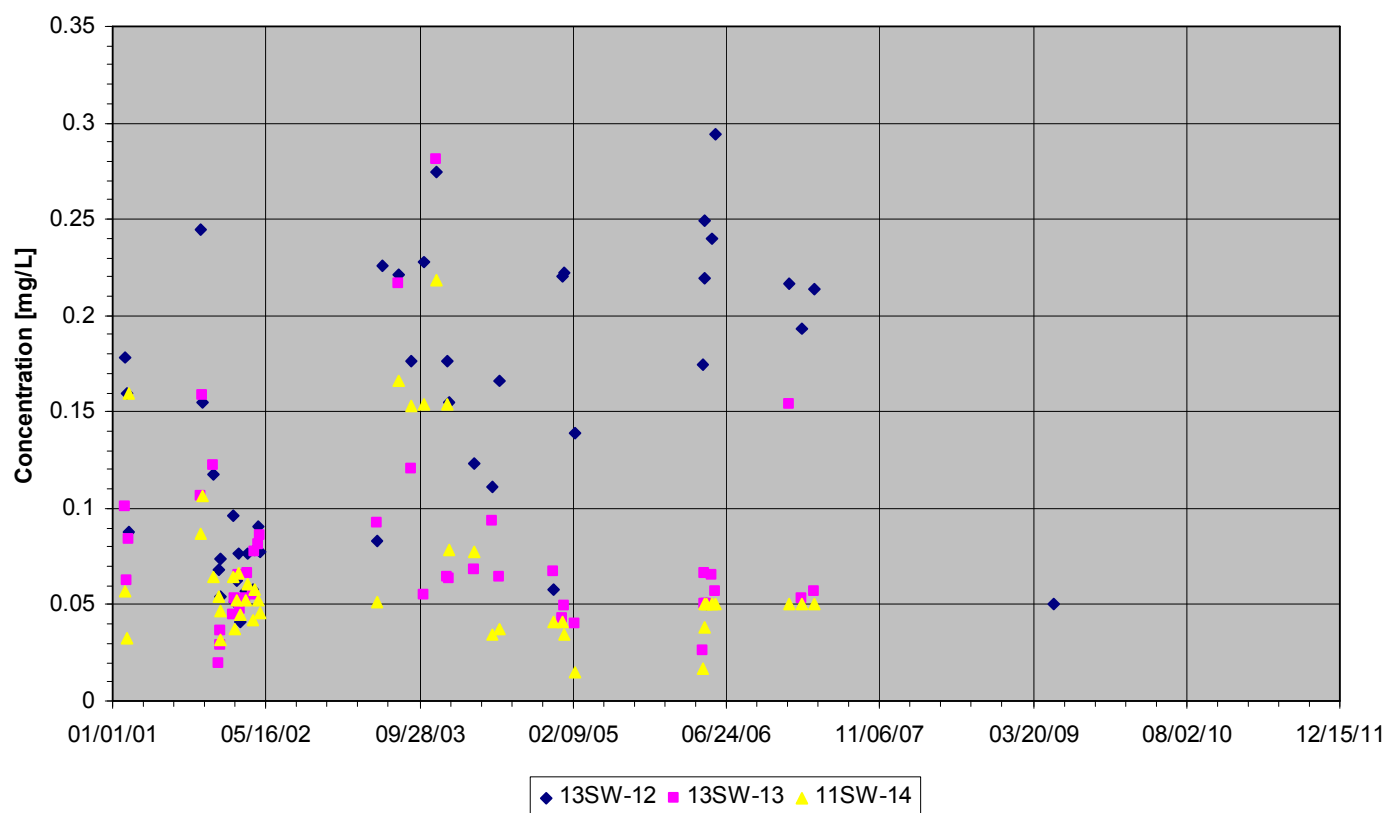


**Time Series - Barium (total)**

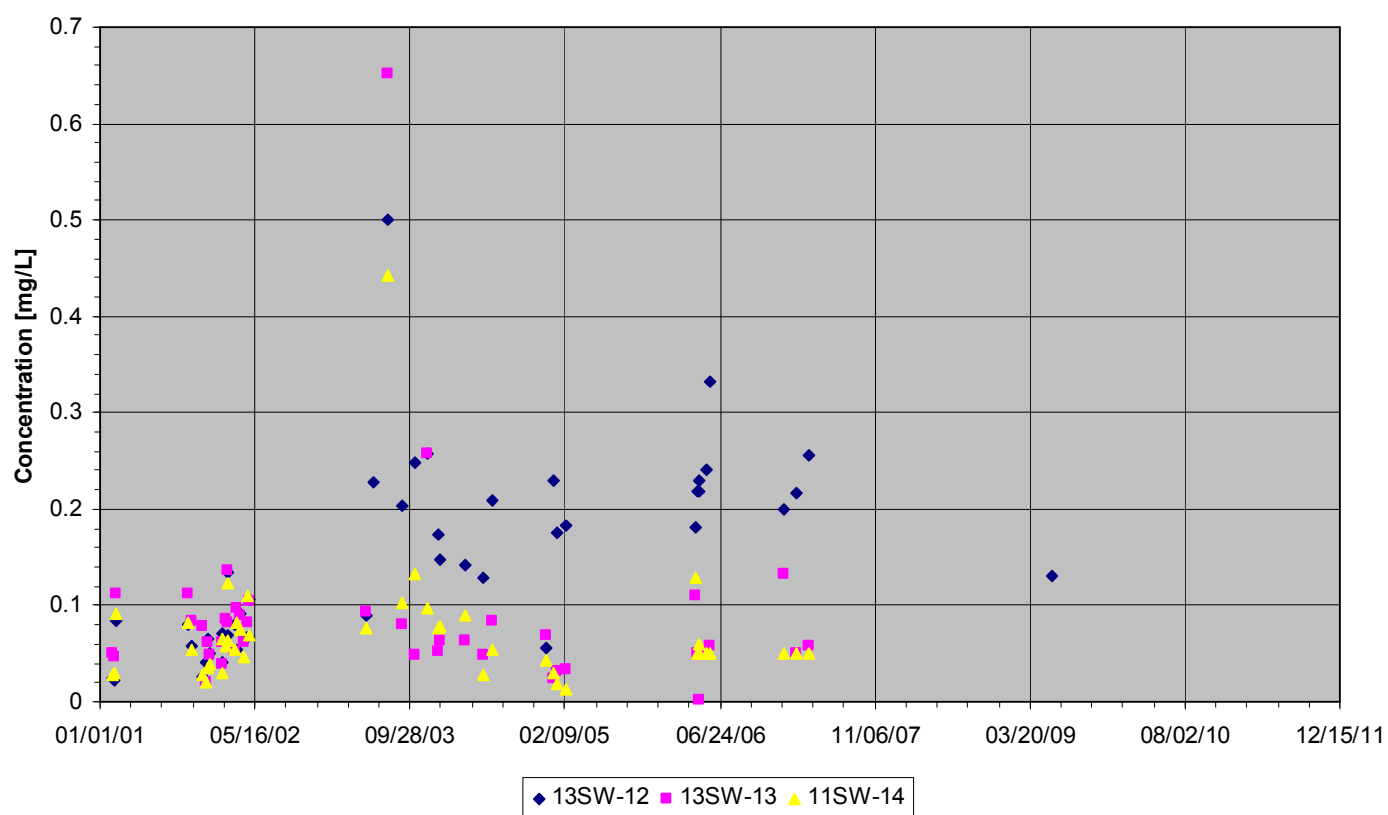




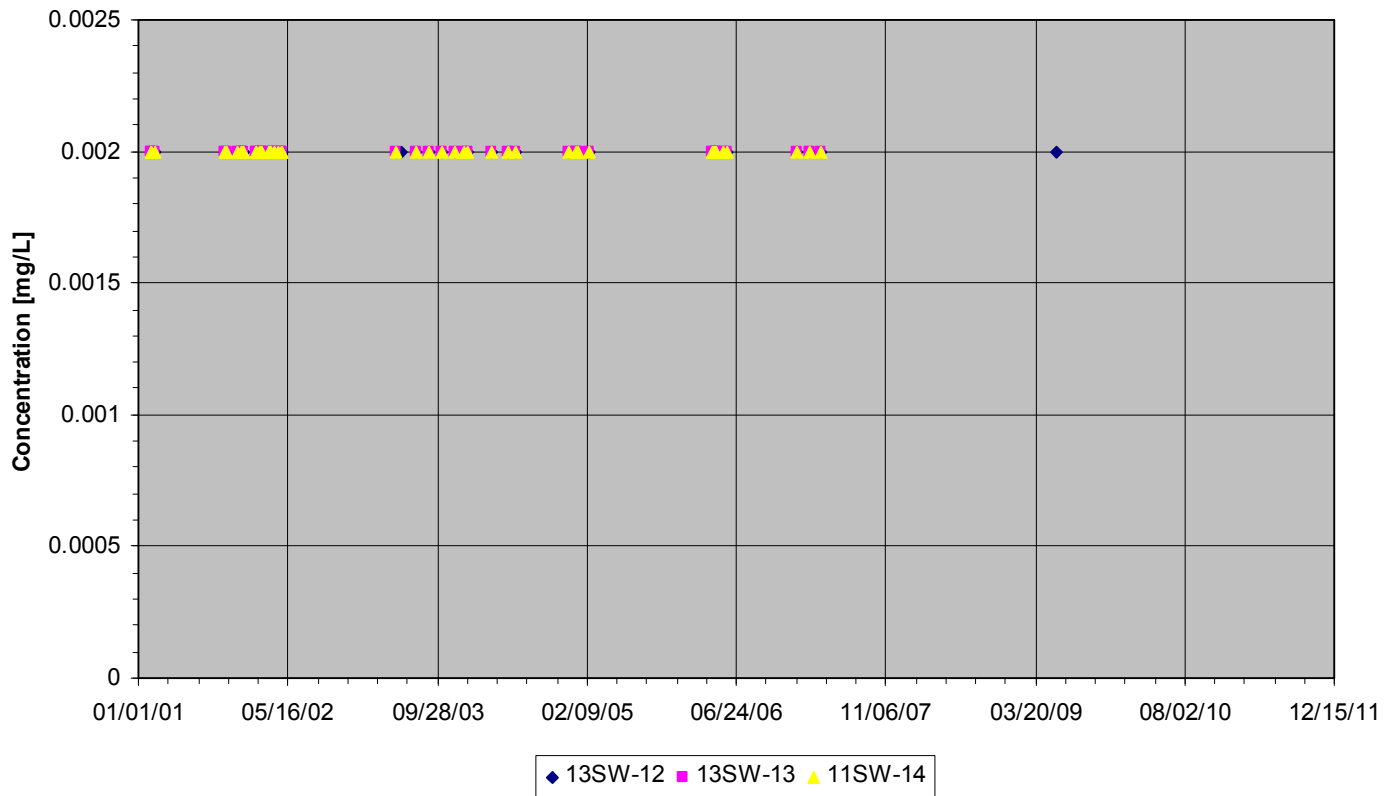
**Time Series - Boron (dissolved)**



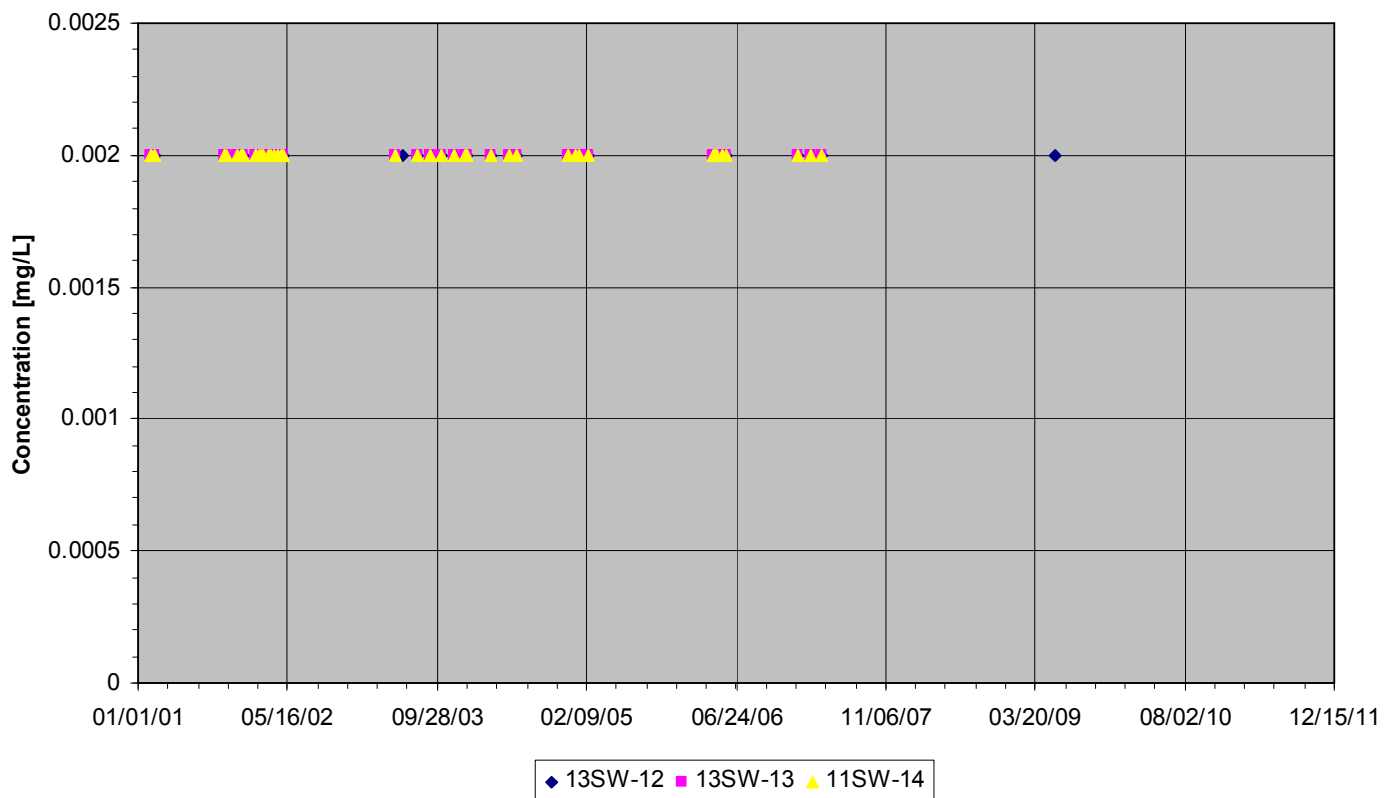
**Time Series - Boron (total)**



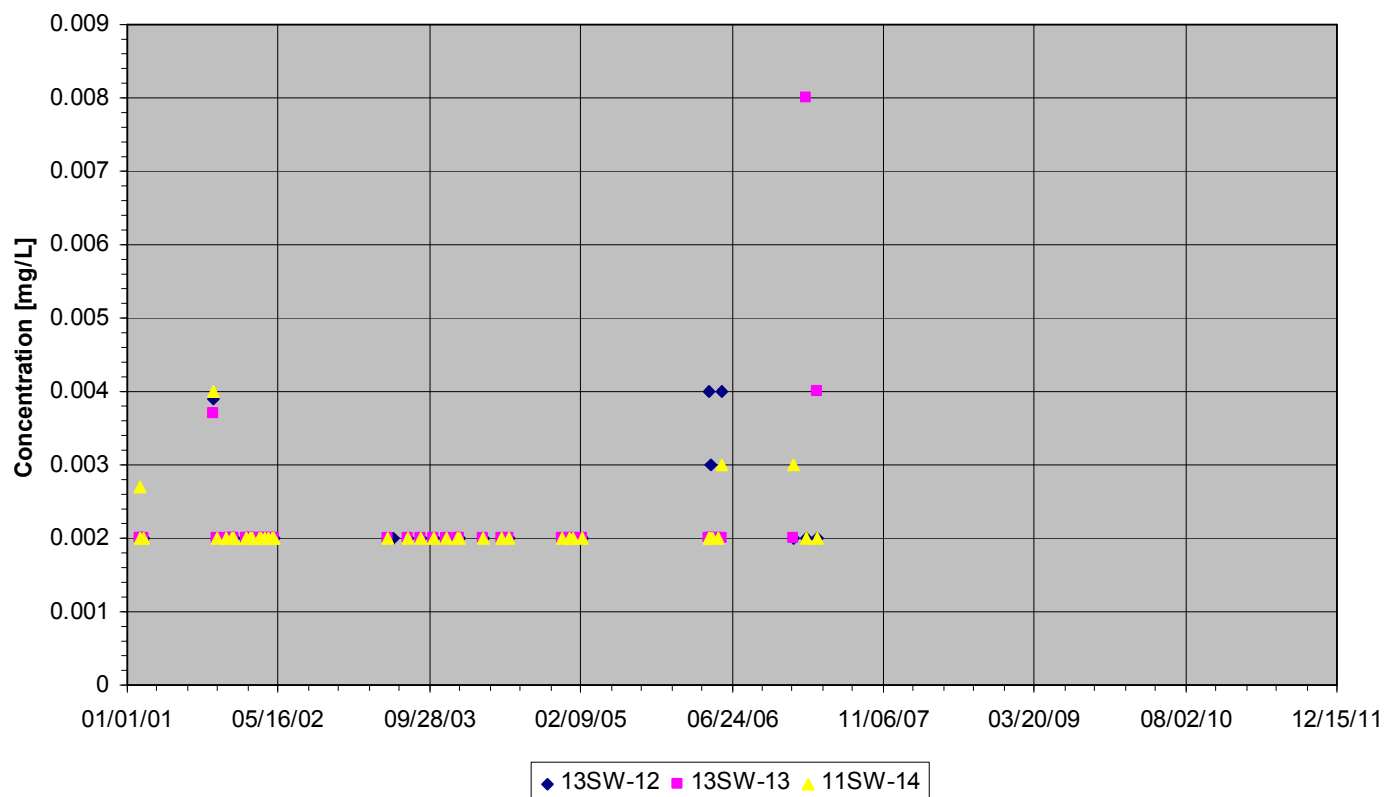
**Time Series - Cadmium (dissolved)**



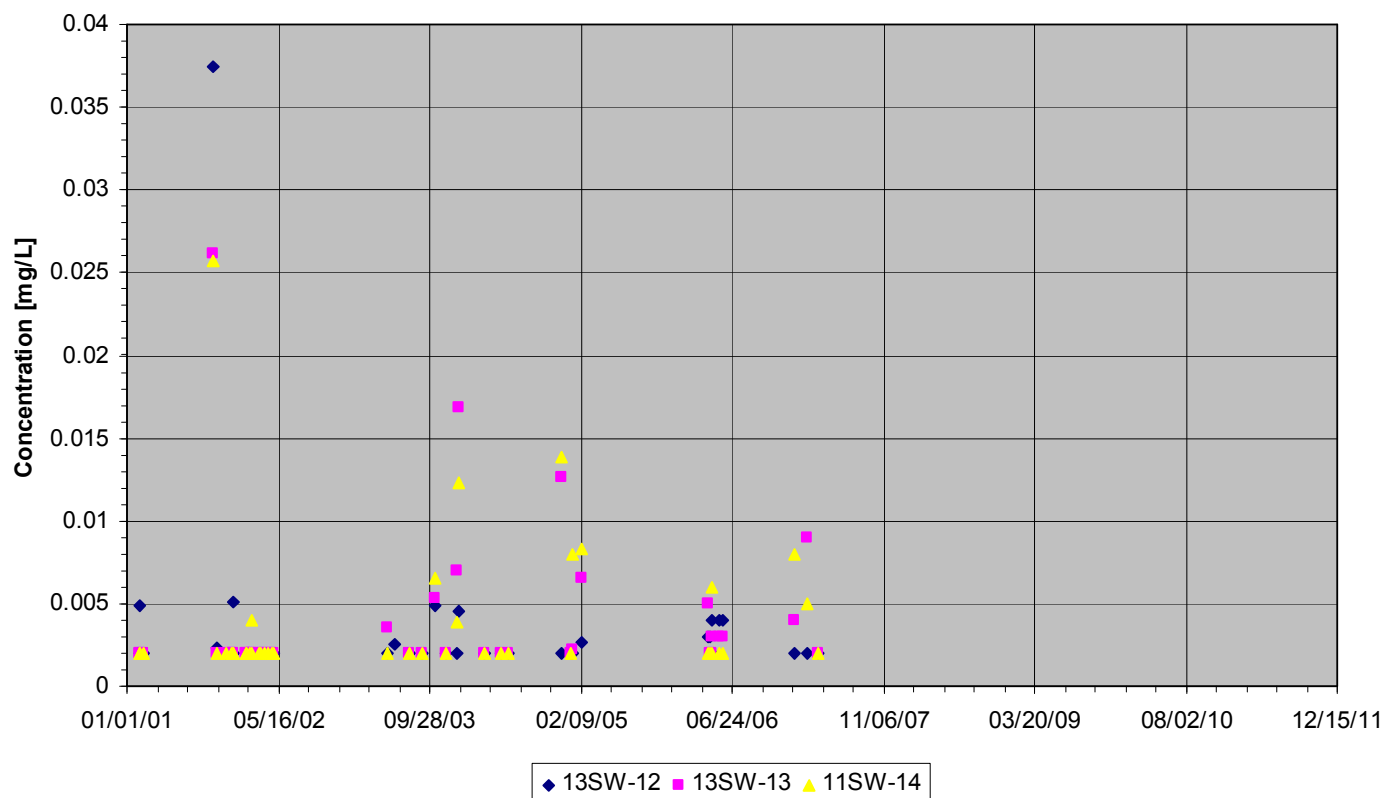
**Time Series - Cadmium (total)**



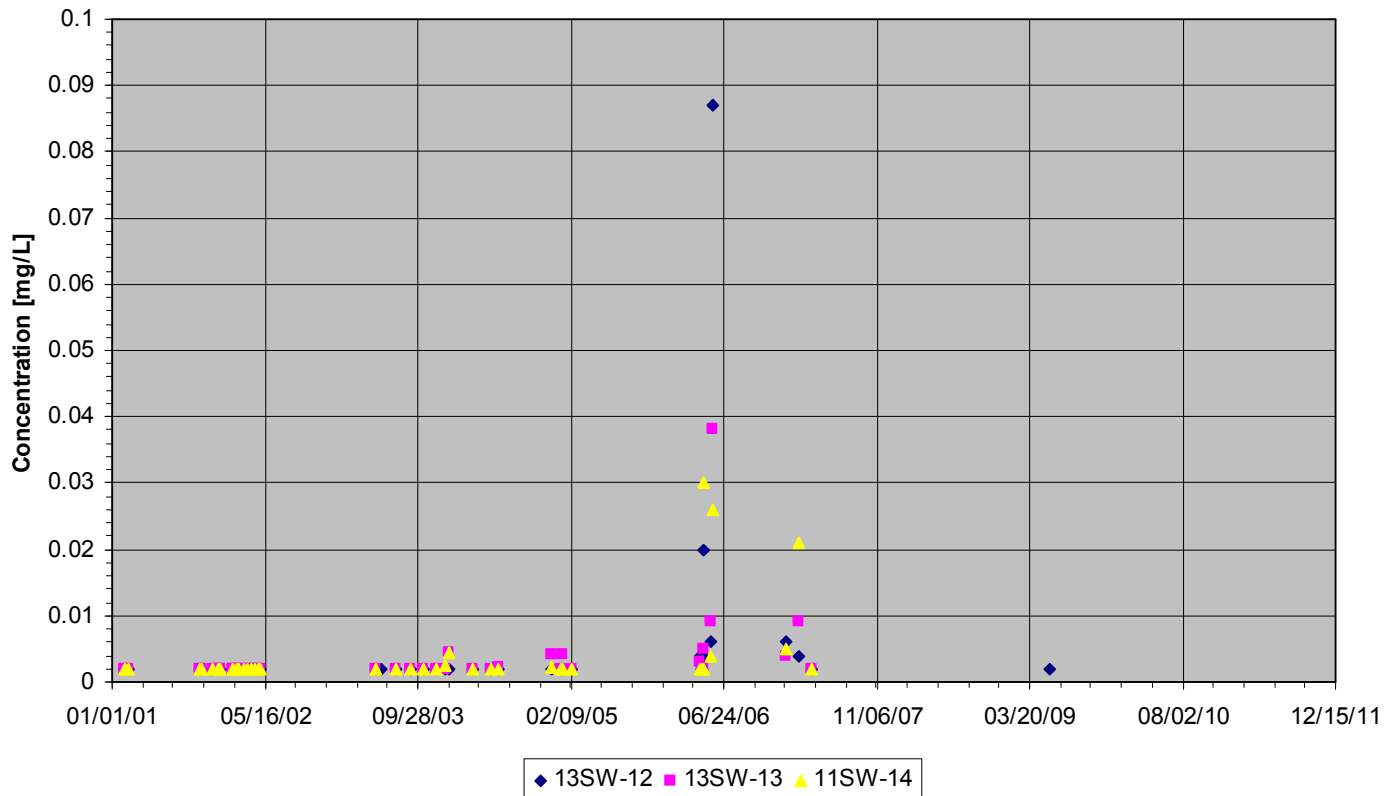
**Time Series - Chromium (dissolved)**



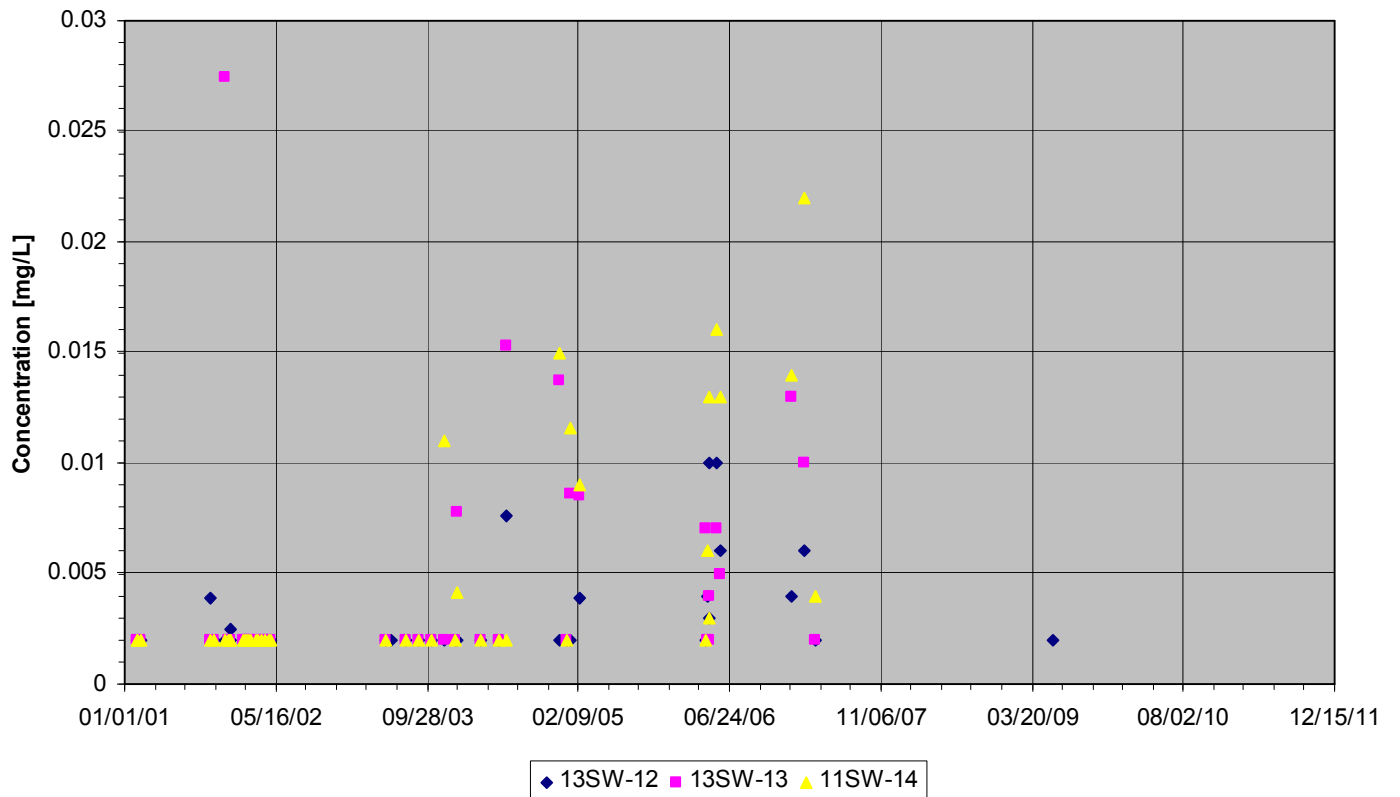
**Time Series - Chromium (total)**



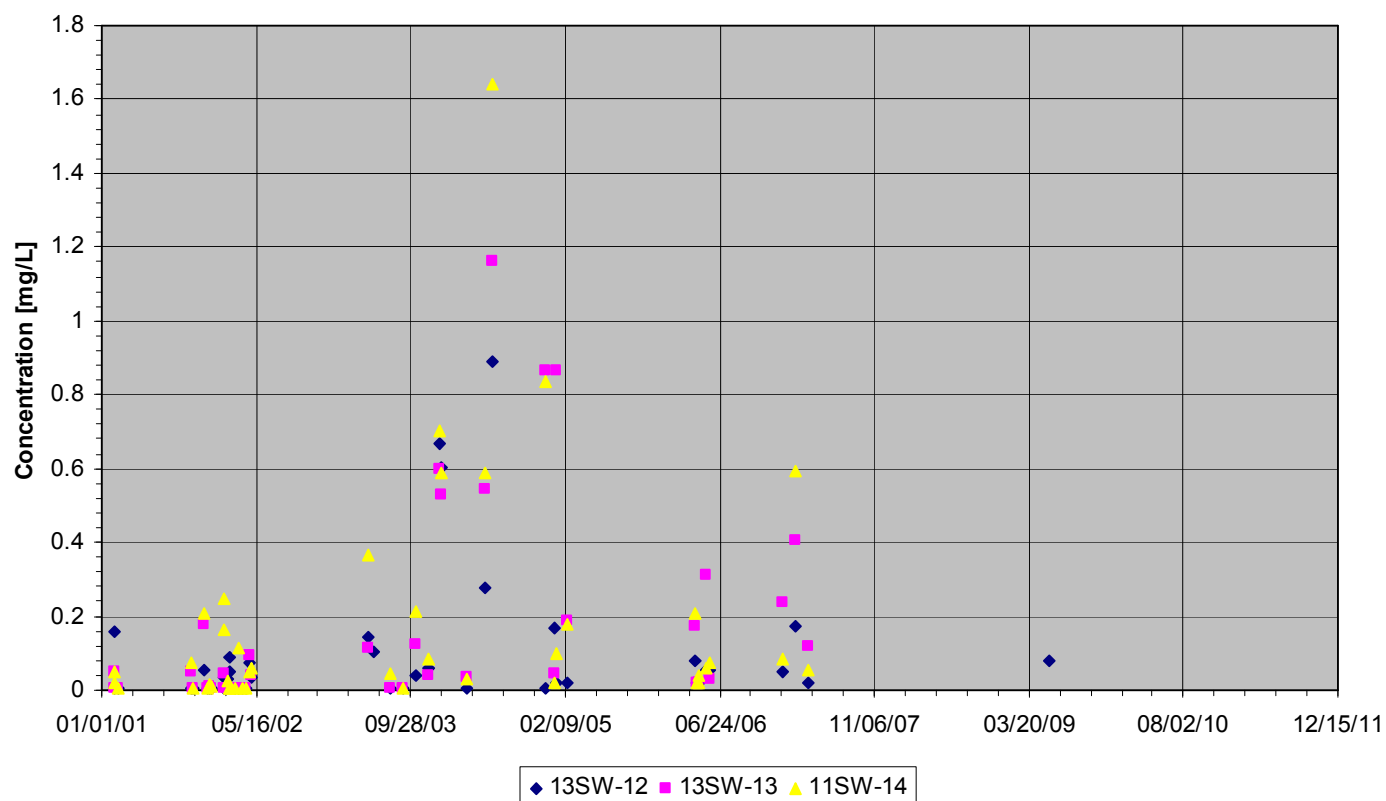
**Time Series - Copper (dissolved)**



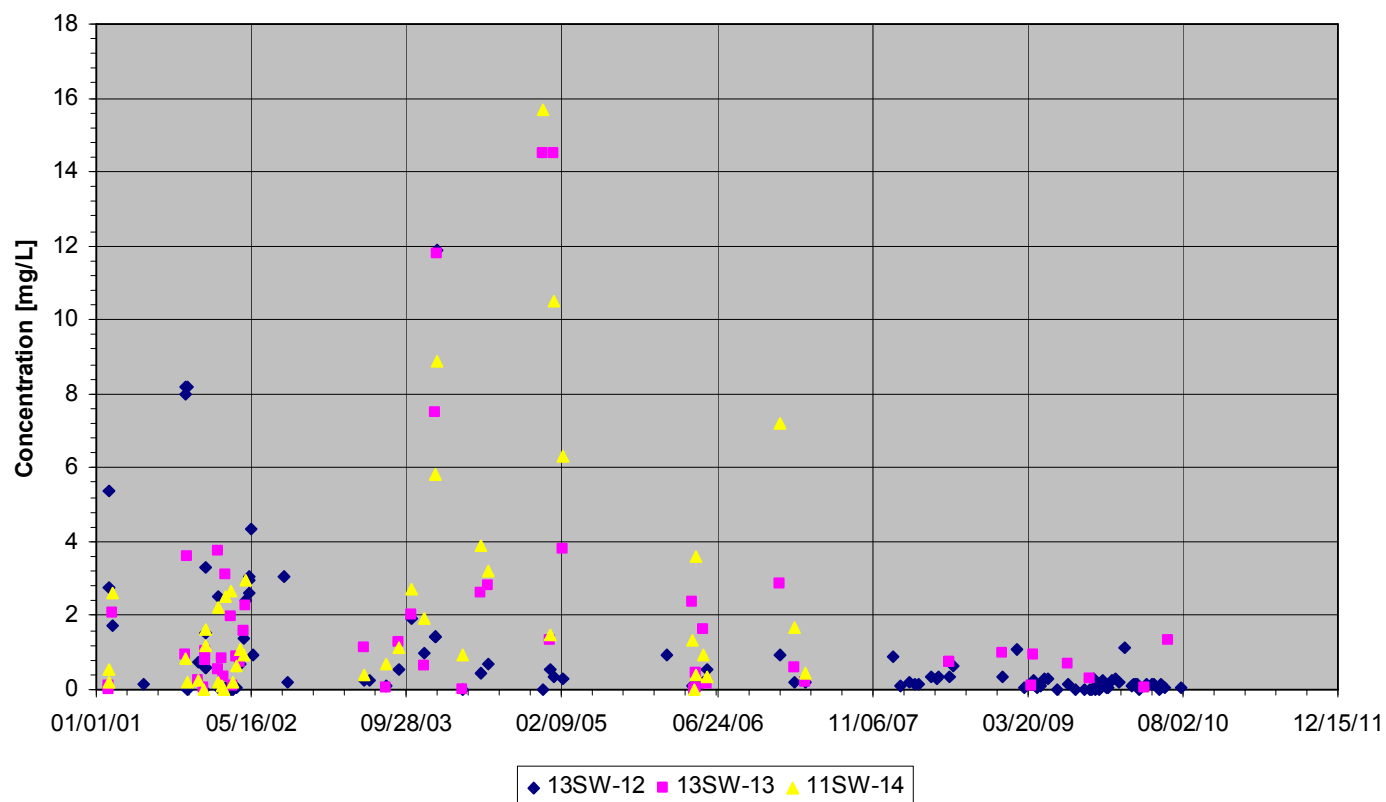
**Time Series - Copper (total)**



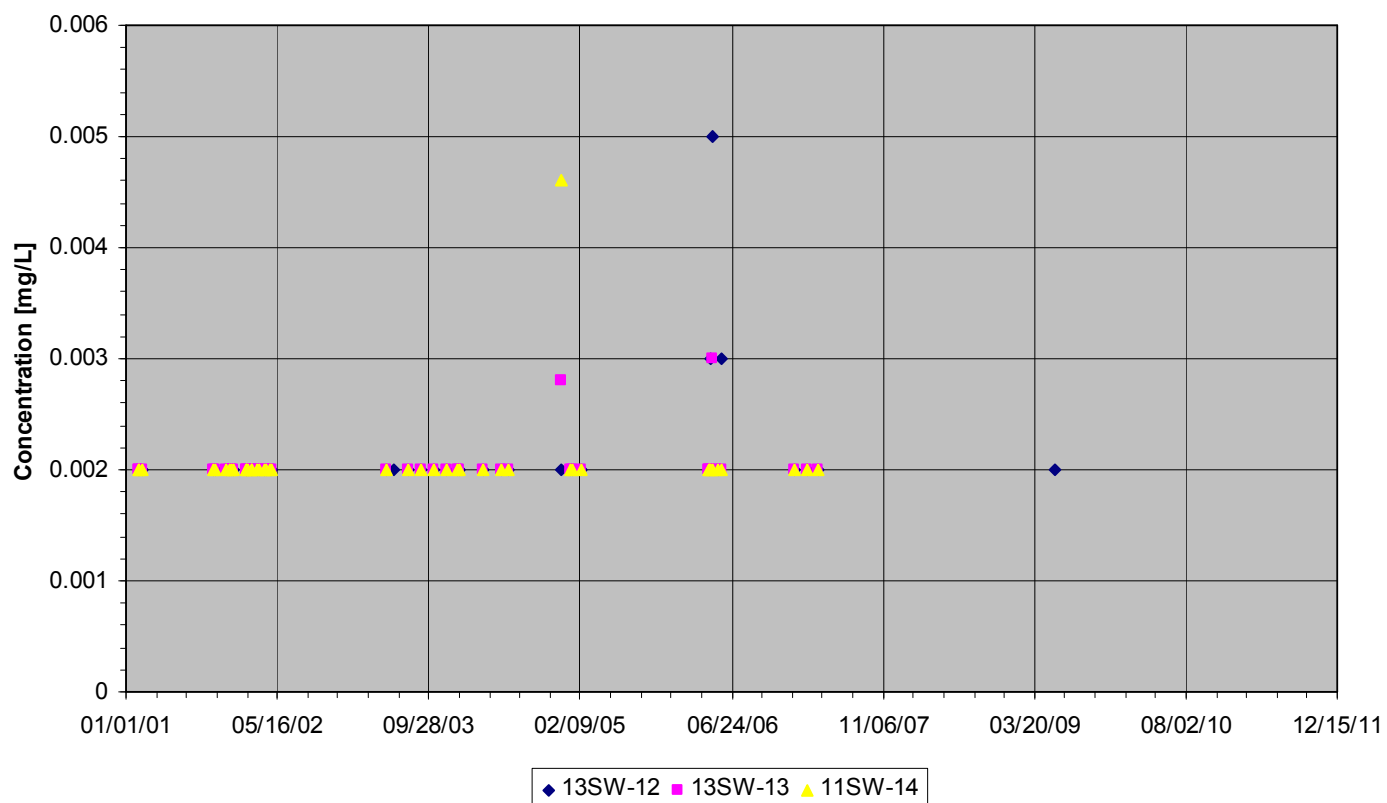
Time Series - Iron (dissolved)



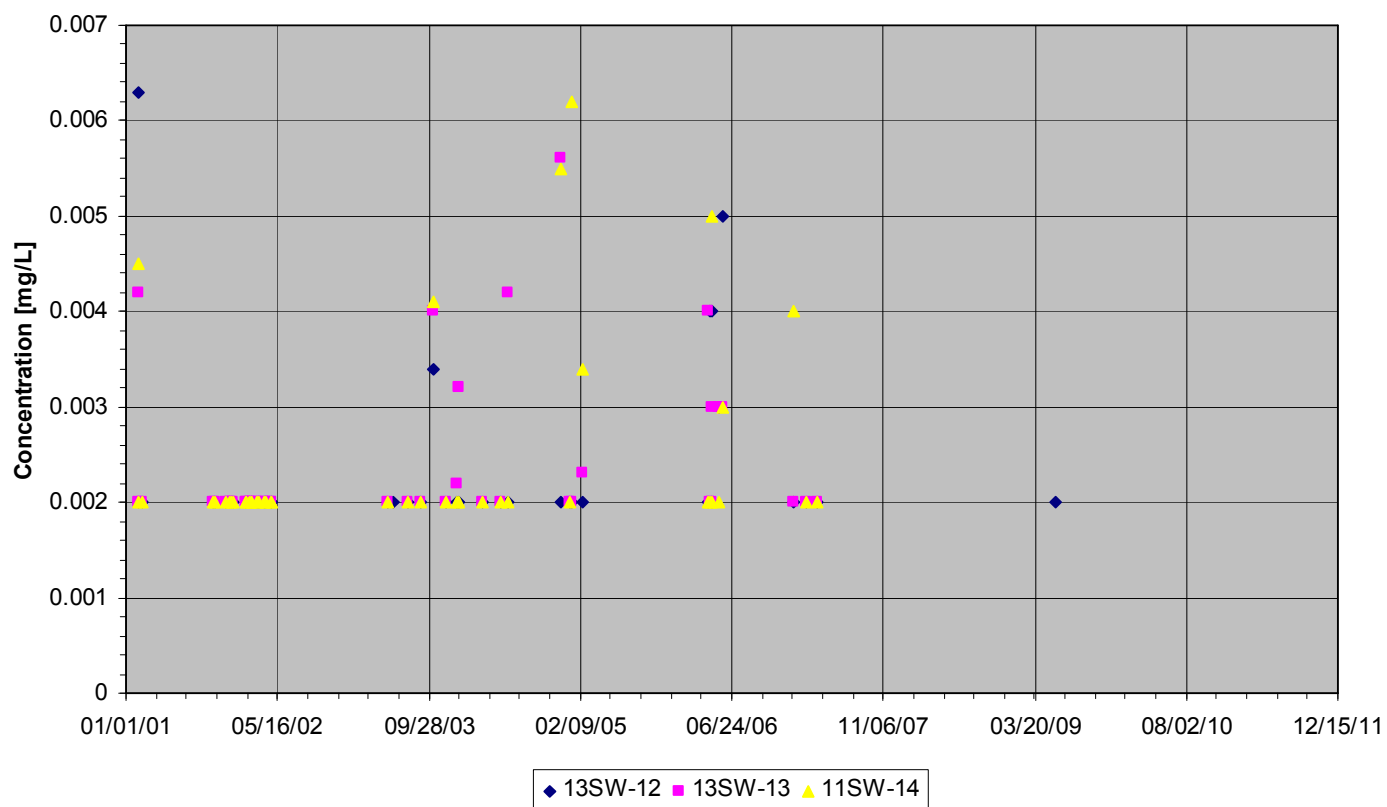
Time Series - Iron (total)



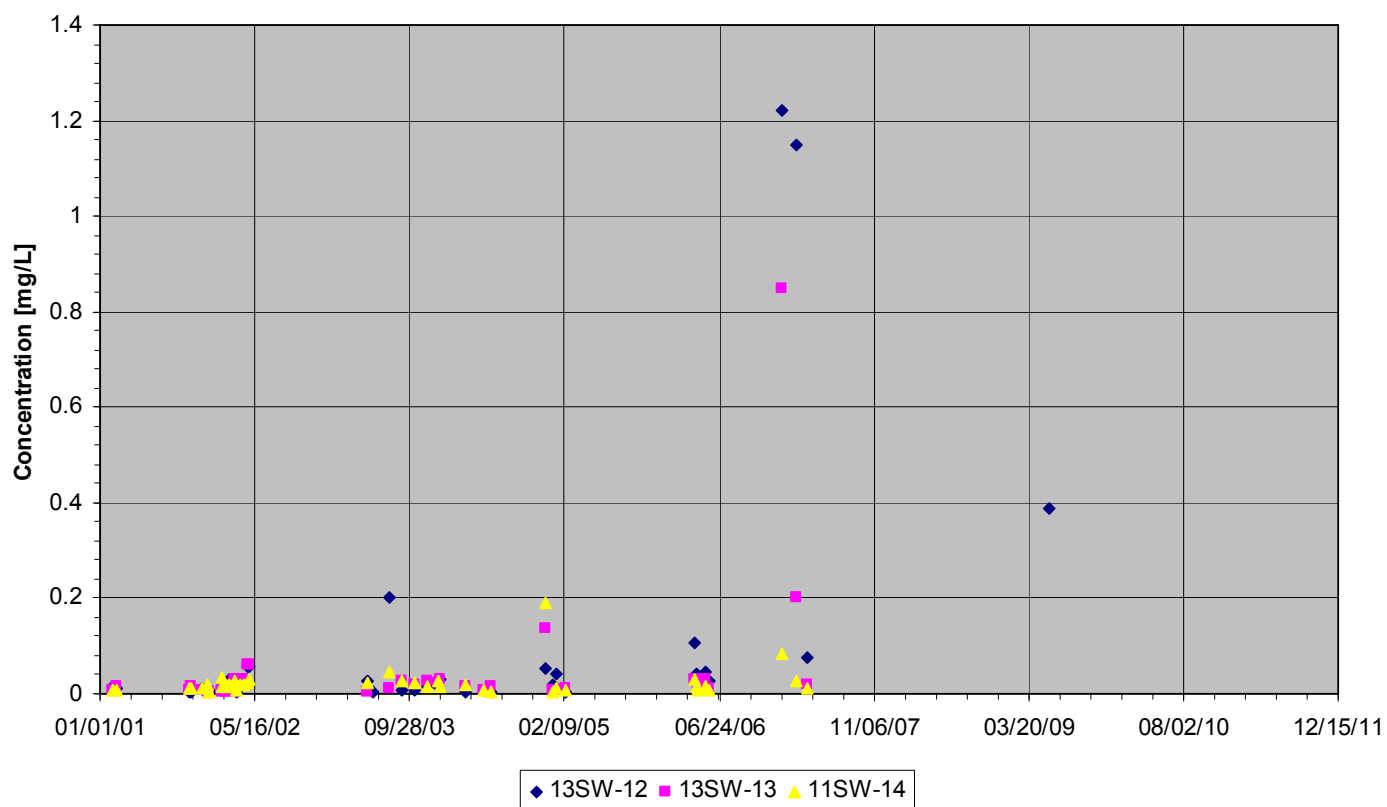
Time Series - Lead (dissolved)



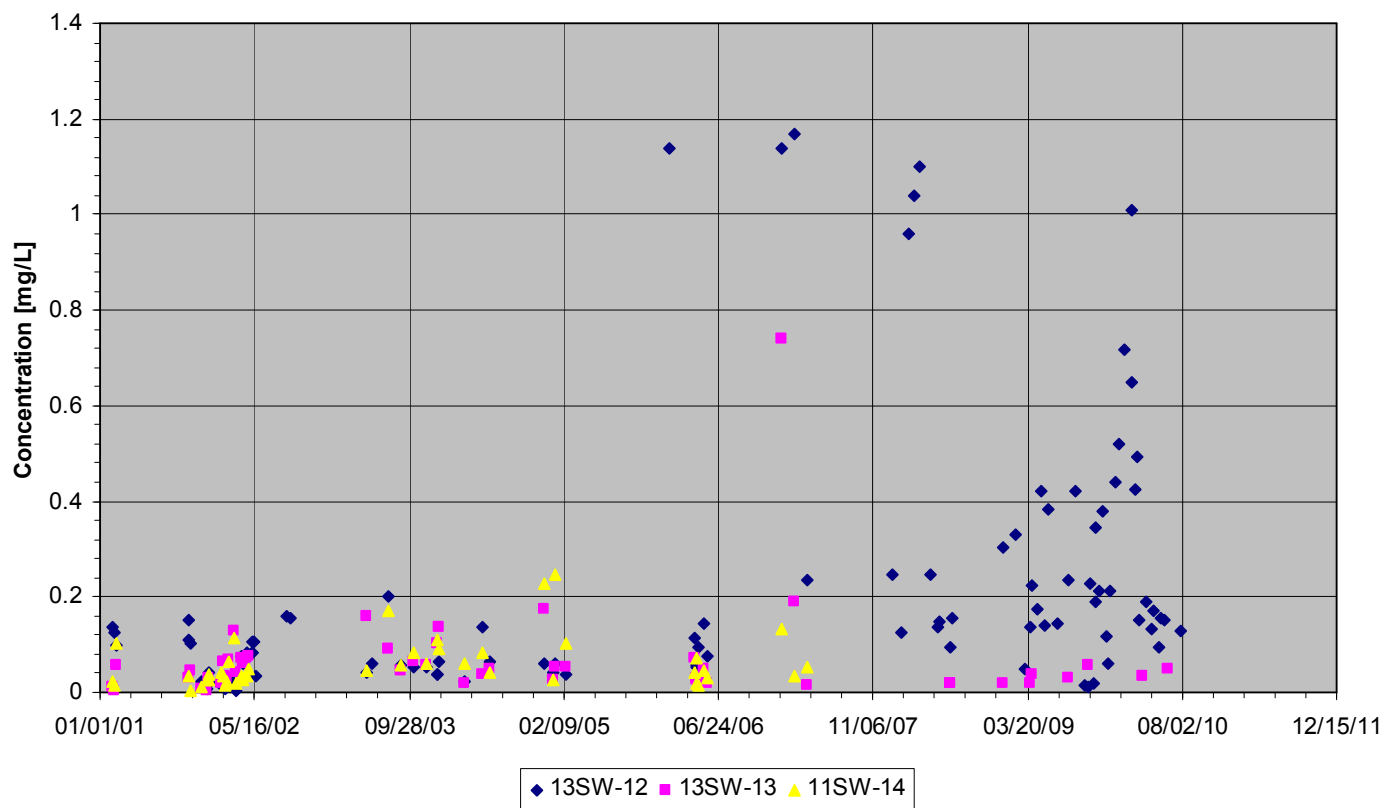
Time Series - Lead (total)



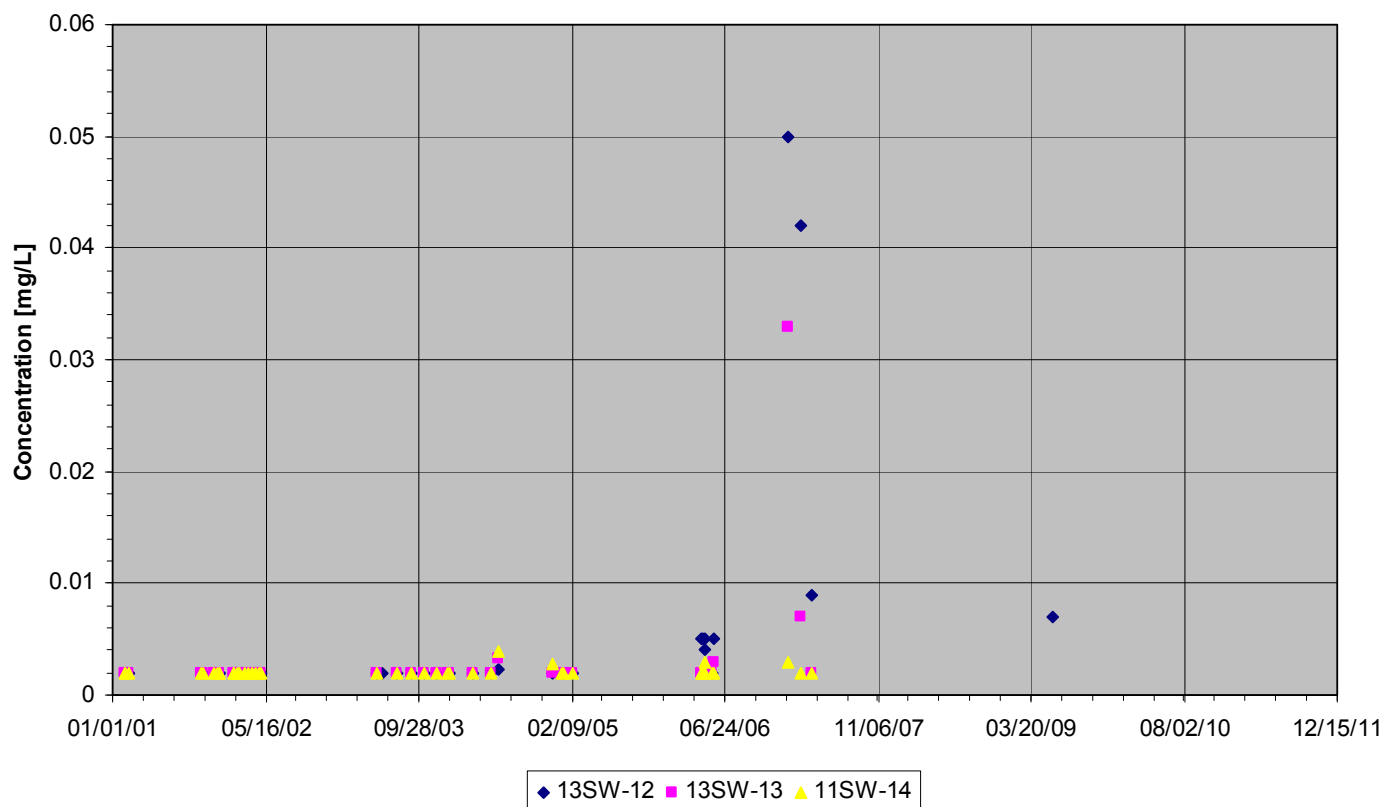
**Time Series - Manganese (dissolved)**



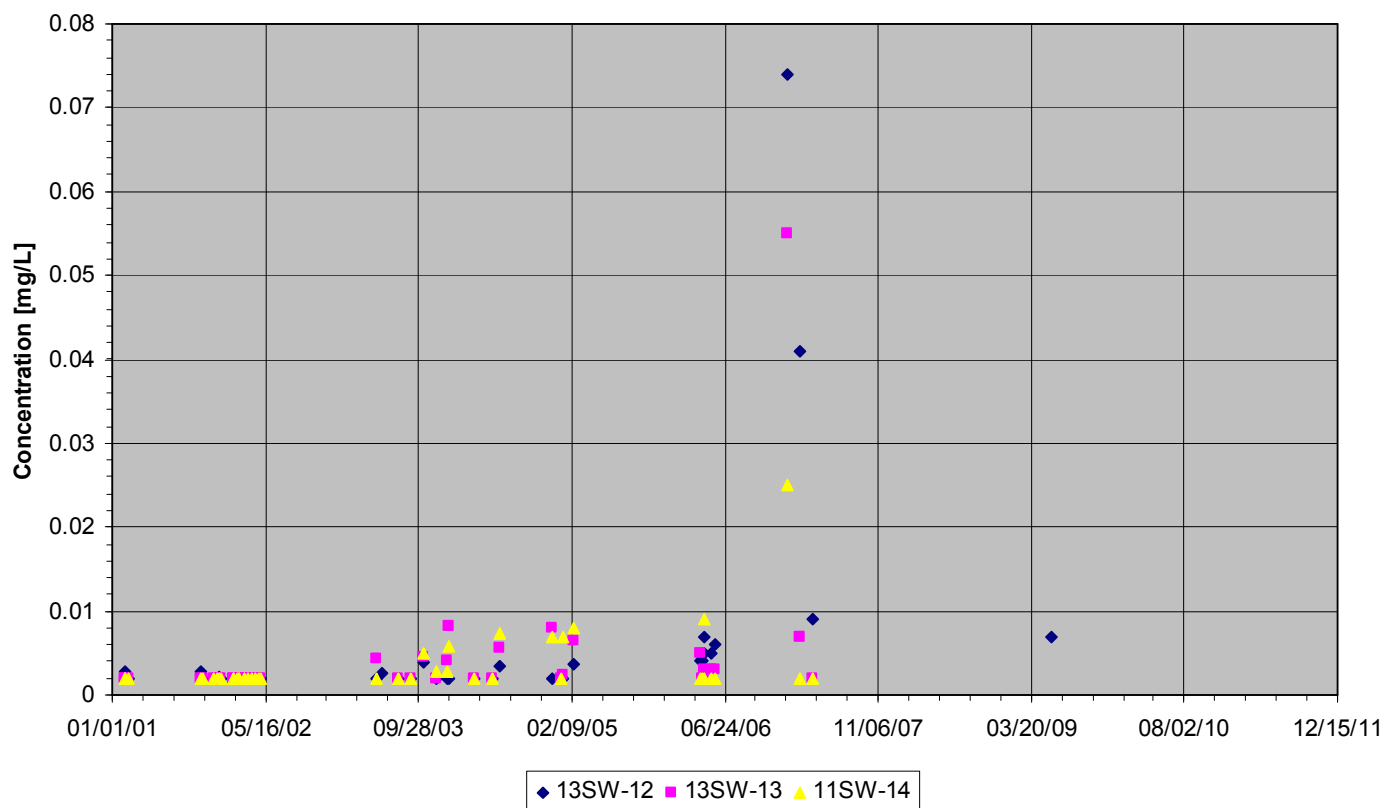
**Time Series - Manganese (total)**



**Time Series - Nickel (dissolved)**

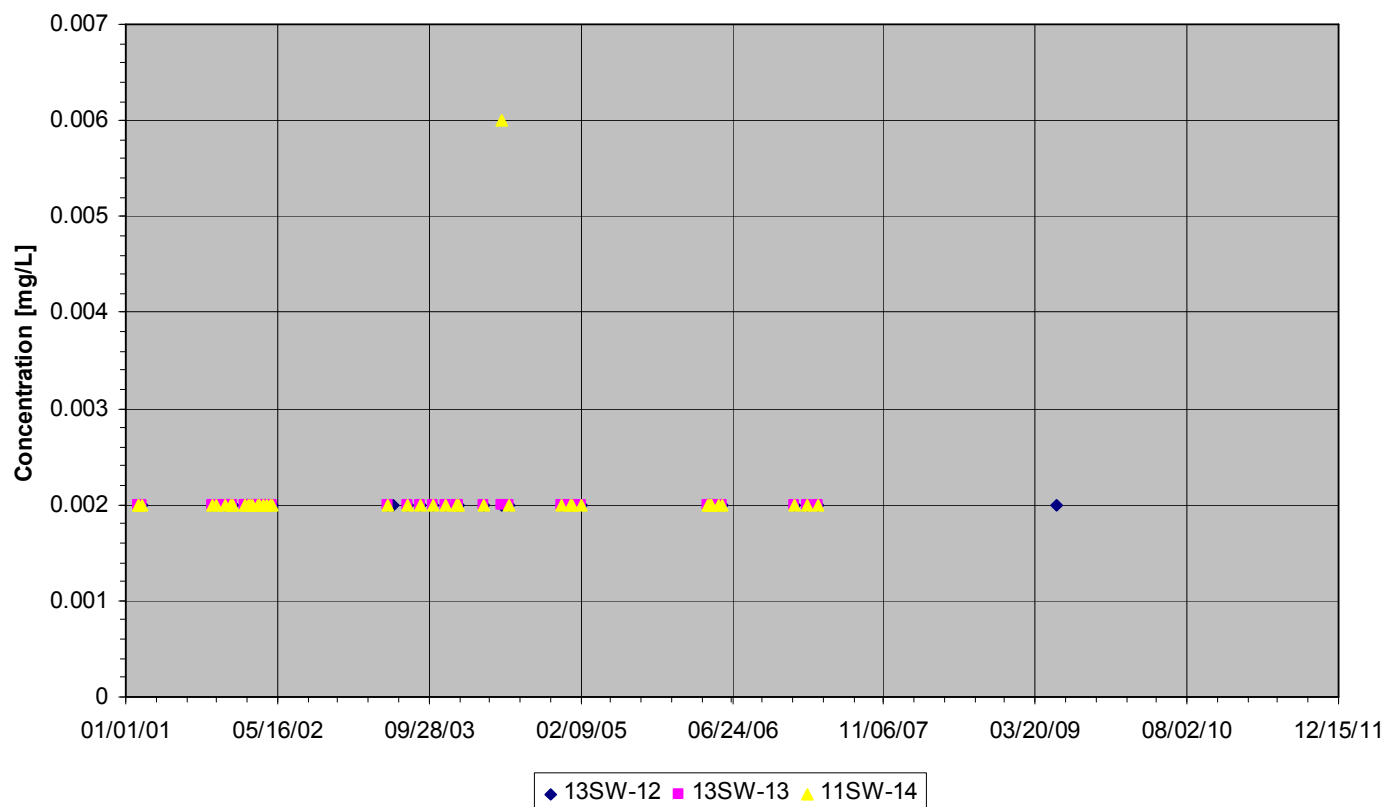


**Time Series - Nickel (total)**

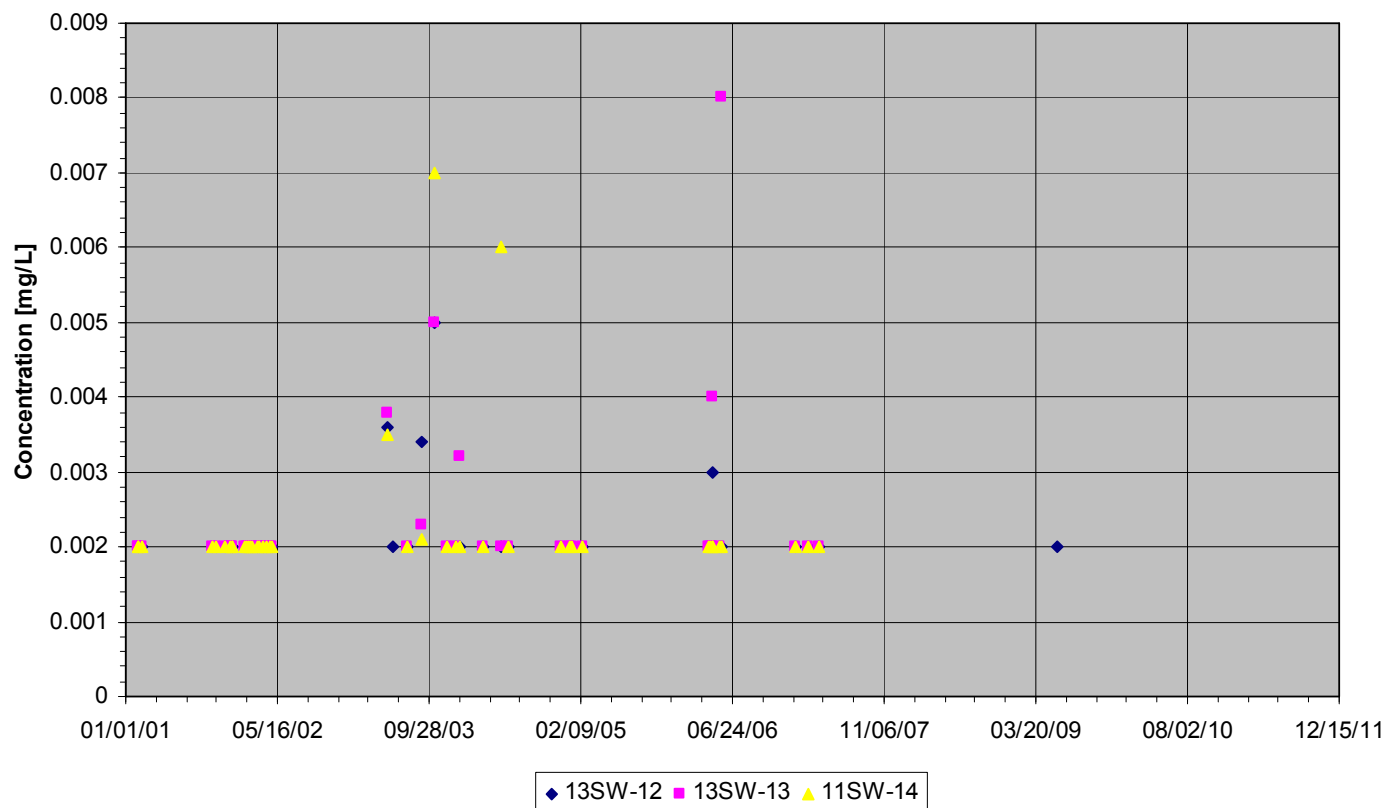




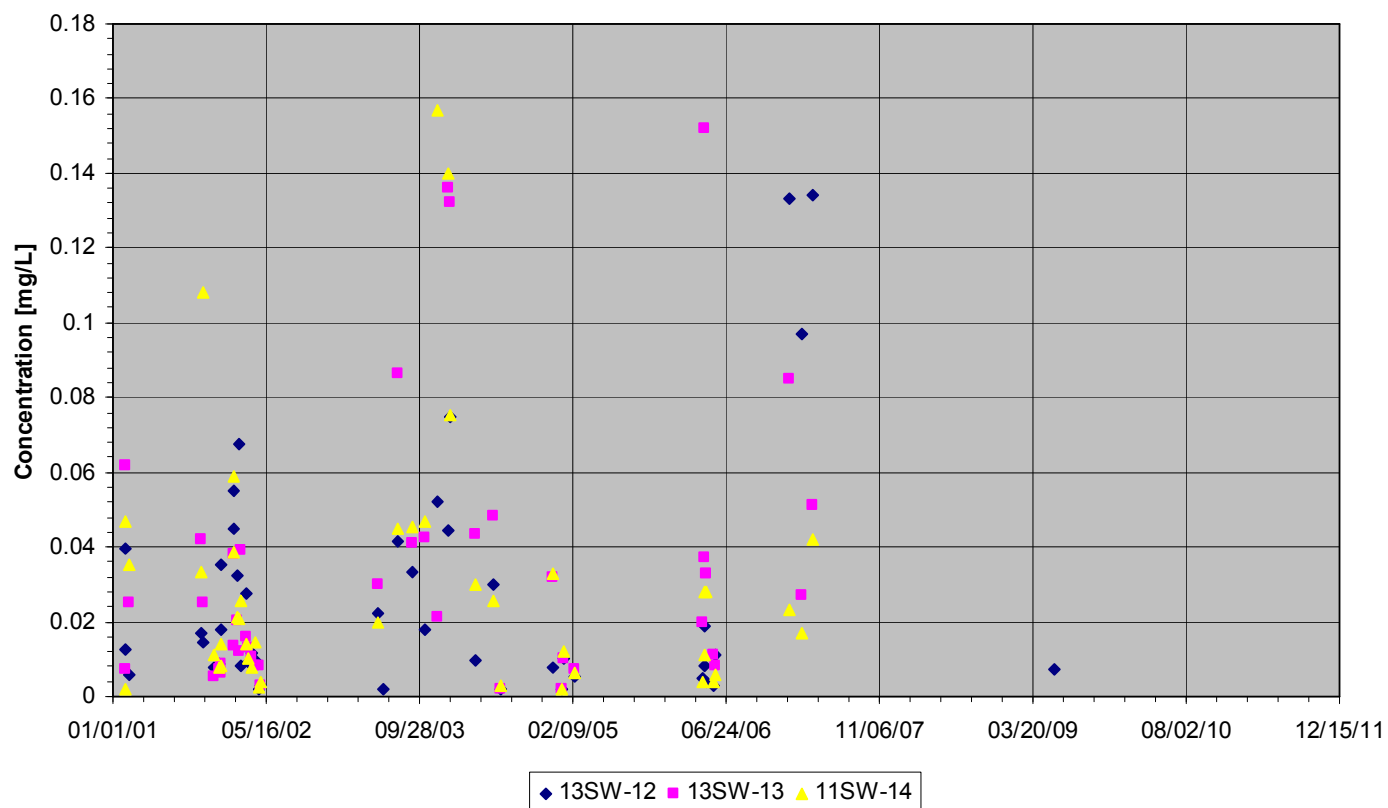
## Time Series - Silver (dissolved)



### Time Series - Silver (total)



Time Series - Zinc (dissolved)



Time Series - Zinc (total)

